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During talks with President Mubarak, visiting United Arab Emirates President Zayid Al Nuhayyan presented a plan "to face the current situation in the Gulf," Paris Radio Monte Carlo reported. The plan reportedly calls on Arab countries "to intervene politically with Iran" to make it "go back on its decision to occupy" the disputed Persian Gulf islands. The source noted that the plan calls for "tightening the economic blockade" on Iran, as well as "stopping all trade and economic transactions."

Jordan

"Official sources" denied that King Husayn invited Iraqi opposition groups to hold a conference in Jordan, London AL-HAYAH reported. The sources acknowledged that the king met with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in London last week but claimed its purpose was to "keep the channels open with the Iraqi opposition." The meeting reportedly "focused on Jordan's eagerness to preserve Iraq's unity and territorial integrity."

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian Document May Imply Border Modifications

PM2309094592 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 92 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Publishes Content of Syrian Paper; Agreement To Withdraw From Golan Is Condition for Mutual Recognition and Start of Normalization"]

[Text] Nicosia, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Damascus has set Tel Aviv a condition for starting the gradual normalization of relations—namely that agreement should be reached first on a settlement providing for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from what was termed "the occupied Syrian Golan," a term that has drawn observers' attention owing to its geographical significance to some.

It is noted that the Syrian offer mentioned nothing about the question of returning to the cease-fire lines before the 1967 war, something that some people interpreted as indicating Syrian willingness to make mutual alterations to the borders.

This comes in the "position paper" the Syrian delegation submitted to the Israeli delegation at the Washington bilateral negotiations. The final week's sessions in the present sixth round resumed yesterday. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained the contents of this Syrian paper, which provoked widespread controversy in Israeli and Arab circles and was regarded as a major transformation in this complex issue.

According to well-informed sources, the preamble to the paper stresses the need to reach a comprehensive, complete, and lasting peace based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the land for peace principle, U.S. President George Bush's plan, and the letters of assurance which the parties concerned received from former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the eve of the Madrid conference at the end of last October.

The Syrian paper contains a promise of normalization with Israel once implementation of the peace process begins, provided that normalization gradually begins, and includes revoking the earlier boycott resolutions relating to foreign companies' dealing with the Hebrew state, starting trade exchanges, and abolishing all barriers imposed on movement of individuals and goods between the two states.

With regard to political matters, the paper called for mutual and simultaneous recognition, for a start on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two states, with its progress linked to the degree of progress in the peace process, for the suspension of media campaigns and hostile mobilization, and for ending the state of war.

The Syrian peace plan also refers to the need to establish demilitarized zones between the two states in the occupied Golan Heights, as well as to the need to establish zones free of any military presence in order to deepen the sense that the war is over.

It also offers the possibility of deploying international forces belonging to the United Nations in the disengagement areas and the weapon-free, demilitarized zones between the two states, but in pointing to the possibility of using forces from another state or states, it also allows for these forces to be either multinational, as in the Sinai situation, or purely U.S. forces.

Of course, the Syrian plan does contain several points about the question of withdrawal from the Golan Heights, but observers' attention has been drawn to the fact that this plan used the term "the occupied Syrian Golan," which some have interpreted as a clear indication that part of the Golan, that is the western part, may be regarded as part of the occupied Palestinian territories.

It should be recalled here that in the June 1967 war, the Israeli forces occupied a strip about 8 km wide and about 40 km long, adjacent to Lake Tiberias in the east. It was part of Palestinian territory under the British mandate before the birth of the State of Israel on 15 May 1948.

This issue was raised at the Palestine National Council [PNC] session held in Algiers on the eve of the Madrid conference a year ago. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat spoke in detail about it in a closed special PNC meeting, using maps and graphs.

According to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources, the Syrian plan refers to a comprehensive solution in more than one article, but it does not mention the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by name, or the occupied strip in southern Lebanon, or the piece of territory occupied by the Israelis in Wadi 'Arabah in southern Jordan.

The sources say that what points to the possibility of Syrian willingness to agree to mutual border modifications is the fact that the Syrian paper says nothing about going back to the 4 June lines, that is, the cease-fire lines before the 1967 aggression.

The sources also say that the Israeli delegation to the negotiations was surprised by the flexibility and positive nature of this Syrian plan, but that delegation leader Itamar Rabinovich replied to the Syrian negotiating delegation by saying: This plan is good, but I have no authority to talk about any withdrawals from the Golan Heights or anywhere else.

At that point, according to the sources, the Syrian delegation very angrily requested the adjournment of the session because it did not expect that Israeli reaction. Then its chief delegate made the statements that we know about, saying that the negotiations had reached a dead end and that there was no hope of changing the Israeli position even though there had been a change of government in Israel.

According to other sources, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, on a sudden and brief visit to Egypt a few days ago, told Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that it was necessary for the United States, as sponsor of the negotiations, to intervene to end the impasse caused by Israeli intransigence.

Syrian chief delegate Mauwaffaq al-'Allaf had requested such intervention. Available information indicates that the U.S. response was positive and that the U.S. State Department informed Egypt and Syria that Damascus should continue with its positive initiative and that Washington would take care of the question of ironing out the Israeli obstacles.

That is why, owing to these circumstances, many circles expect decisive developments in the coming days in relation to a solution on the occupied Syrian Golan front, but these circles believe it unlikely that Syria will conclude a separate settlement at the expense of other issues, particularly that of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Al-'Allaf Says Still No Progress in Talks

JN2309064892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, has announced that yesterday's 14th meeting in this round has not produced any results better than those of the meeting held the day before yesterday, in which no progress was made.

After the meeting, al-'Allaf said that the talks are continuing, but that there is no progress. He added: It seems that so far the Israeli side has no intention to discuss anything serious or substantial. I am afraid that the remaining two days of this round will not produce any change, he added.

Answering a question on the possibility of issuing a joint statement or document at the end of this round, al-'Allaf said: We have not come to Washington simply to issue any joint statement or document. It depends on the content of this statement. We have still not found any possibility of agreeing on anything with the Israeli side, since it is still evading solid discussion of the peace process, as well as of the Israeli withdrawal from our territory.

Asked whether the Israeli side has presented new formulas or ideas, al-'Allaf said: What the Israeli side presented was not interesting for us, because we feel that the Israeli side sometimes presents clear and obvious matters and depicts them as if they were concessions, progress, or something new. This is not true, he said.

Al-'Allaf added: All that we have heard from the Israeli side was a statement saying that the Israelis, for example, have taken note of certain words in Resolution 242, but this does not mean anything.

Al-'Allaf went on to say: We are not here to remind each other of what is written in Resolution 242. Rather, we are here to implement the resolution, to identify all that is necessary and basic for establishing a just, comprehensive peace, and to enforce it.

Asked whether there is any intention to extend the current round of talks, al-'Allaf said: There is no such intention, since this round has continued for longer than any other round, but regrettably without any result. He added that the Israeli side yesterday proposed that it return on 21 October, and the Arab delegations are studying this proposal. The answer will be given tomorrow before the end of the round, he said.

Syrians Deny Reports of al-Asad-Rabin Meeting

JN2209183792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpts] Amid the complicated atmosphere prevailing at Washington's bilateral talks two days before their conclusion, negotiators resumed their meetings. New Israeli ideas and formulas are expected to be discussed on the Syrian track. Discussion on the Palestinian track still focuses on the formation of working committees and elections. Discussion on the Lebanese track is still confined to security issues. Arab delegation sources continue to say that the talks are going very slow. All signs indicate that the talks will end on Thursday without leading even to any modest agreements. [passage omitted]

Official Syrian sources have strongly denied to Radio Monte Carlo that the Israeli delegation had proposed anything related to partial withdrawals, or touched, in any way, on the issue of Israel's agreeing to discuss Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights in return for Israel's leasing part of the Golan, or on any proposals similar to those currently being speculated on by Arab and Israeli newspapers. The Syrian sources also denied that the Syrian document had, in any way, touched on the issue of normalization—an issue Muwaffaq al-'Allaf had earlier confirmed to Radio Monte Carlo.

The Syrian sources also denied reports on a visit to Washington by the Syrian president. The sources quoted a senior Syrian official in Damascus as describing press reports on a meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and Yitzhaq Rabin as absolutely impossible.

Rabinovich Calls Peace Talks 'Beneficial'

TA2209180492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] The Washington meeting between the Israeli and the Syrian delegations has just ended. Good evening Arye Gus in Washington:

Good evening from the State Department building. The report about the assassination of the border policeman in Jerusalem was received very sadly here in Washington. It will apparently cast its shadow on the continuation of the talks, mainly on the Palestinian track. We expect the Palestinians to come out of their meeting soon, and we will ask them about it.

The meeting with the Syrian delegation, however, has just ended. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said that to his regret, no progress was made. No joint statement or document of principles should be expected by the weekend because the basis for such a document was not

found. No progress was made, he said, because the Israelis brought no new ideas; just the opposite—they continue to present self-evident ideas as progress and concessions on their part. For example, he said, the appearance of this or that word in UN Resolution 242 is self-evident, while the Israelis regard those words as new ideas.

Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation, presented a slightly different approach. He said that this was a good and beneficial day of talks. We are at a stage of clarifying things to each other. We found several points on which we hope to unite both positions, he said. When I asked him to explain the gap between his and the Syrian statements, Rabinovich said: This is a clear Syrian attempt to apply pressure on us, Israelis, to use words that the Syrians would perhaps like to hear, but that we are not yet ready to utter. This is all part of the negotiations, he said. Tomorrow is another day of talks here in Washington. Later today, the meeting with Jordanians will take place.

Amman Radio Reports on Progress of Negotiations

JN2309062692 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] The Arab and Israeli delegations held further negotiations last night without achieving any progress worth mentioning. This sixth round of negotiations, which has lasted for one month, is expected to end tomorrow.

After the session of negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track, Syrian chief delegate Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf said that the issue of withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is still obstructing the negotiations. He said that the discussions are continuing without any progress being made.

Al-'Allaf added that there will be no progress as long as the Israelis continue to reject one of the most essential elements in the negotiations—that is, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Syrian territories.

He noted that the Israeli delegation's statements on certain issues sometimes give the impression that progress is being made or that a concession has been made. He said: It seems that the Israeli side so far has no intention of becoming involved in what is serious and essential.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last night rejected withdrawal from all the occupied Syrian territories. He said that he does not want what he described as the "precedent" which took place in the peace negotiations with Egypt and through which all the Egyptian territories were returned to be repeated on the Golan Heights.

During a meeting held by the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Rabin said that negotiations with Syria will not achieve anything worthwhile unless they are held at a higher level. He said: Therefore, I believe it will be difficult to make big decisions at the present level.

On the Palestinian-Israeli track, Palestinian chief delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi told reporters after last night's session that nothing new has been achieved and we are still trying to reach common ground on the issues presented at the negotiating table, noting that the Israeli side has commented on some Palestinian remarks. He added: We were not pleased with the Israeli responses and we are trying our best to achieve progress.

Responding to a question on the possibility of issuing a joint statement over the principles that were agreed on between the two sides at the end of the sixth round this week, he said: I cannot confirm that, but our efforts are heading in this direction.

On the Lebanese-Israeli track, news agencies said that the Lebanese delegation presented what is described as an intitiative of good intentions by telling the Israeli delegation that an Israeli pilot, whose plane was downed in southern Lebanon in 1986, is still alive. REUTER said that this is the first official news on the fate of the pilot.

The sixth round of negotiations is expected to end tomorrow, Thursday. Israel has proposed the start of the seventh round on 21 October 1992. The Syrian chief delegate commented: There will be no problem providing all parties as well as the conference cosponsors agree to that.

Israel Accepts 242 in Final Territories Arrangement

TA2309091292 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem announced last night that Israel has explicitly stated in the talks with the Palestinians in Washington that, in its opinion, UN Resolution 242 applies to the permanent solution in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Despite chief delegate Elyaqim Rubinstein's statement to this effect, Israel refuses to include this position in the papers and the proposed drafts for a written accord it has submitted to the Palestinians.

The Israeli position came in reaction to the Palestinian demand for a declaration that Resolution 242 applies to both the permanent and the interim arrangements. It should be pointed out that a similar Israeli declaration regarding the Golan Heights was perceived as a breakthrough which led to progress in the negotiations with the Syrians.

It was further reported in Jerusalem last night that Israel proposed to the Palestinians to set up a subcommittee to discuss infrastructure matters, such as land and water, in exchange for Israel's agreement to establish a committee to discuss human rights. [sentence as published]

The sources added that the view gaining ground among the Palestinians is that a referendum should be held prior to the elections in the territories in which Palestinians would be asked to agree to hold such elections. This position apparently reflects Palestinian anxiety over the elections, and is meant to allay the objections of the PLO, which fears the emergence of an alternative leadership to the one in Tunis.

[A report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Yosi Torpstein on pages A1 and A8 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 23 September notes: "In yesterday's session, Israel reacted to the position paper delivered by the Palestinians the previous day. Rubinstein said: 'It was a tough document, but I chose to react to it in a moderate fashion.'

["He confirmed that the unofficial forum—a six-man team made up of representatives of both delegations—'had started going into the essence of the negotiations.' Israeli sources noted that the forum had attempted to formulate a framework for the negotiations. A debate was held on which working teams could be set up soon, and which topics they should tackle first.

["The Palestinian delegates raised the question of the geographic area to which the authority of the Palestinian self-government would apply, demanding that it apply to all the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including East Jerusalem and the settlements in the territories.

["The Palestinians rejected the Israeli position which, in their opinion, does not clearly define the geographic boundaries of Palestinian self-government and does not award them full powers over the land, the inhabitants, and the natural resources."]

It has been learned that considerable progress was made in the negotiations with the Lebanese. It was decided that military officers should discuss future security arrangements on the northern border. Contrary to earlier reports, however, at this point the Lebanese are not prepared to set up a military committee independent of the official delegations. The Lebanese propose to include in the delegations military officers, who would discuss security matters in the framework of the official negotiations.

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP-DFLP Joint Statement Opposes Self-Rule

JN2209203792 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] have issued the following statement:

The political bureaus of the PFLP and DFLP held a joint meeting to discuss the latest grave developments in the Palestinian arena. They did so against the backdrop of the ongoing talks in Washington and the need to consolidate their bilateral ties and upgrade their militant cooperation and joint action to ensure the widest possible mobilization of the Palestinian masses in the face of the risks involved in the solutions that are being floated.

The two sides have noted that the negotiating process in Washington is moving rapidly in the direction set for it by the United States, namely to endorse an agreement on the main components of administrative self-rule. This comes after the Madrid Palestinian team bypassed the PLO's legitimate institutions and put forward its 10-point plan that ignores Jerusalem, the refugees, territorial sovereignty, and the legislative powers. The Madrid team is also ignoring linkage between an interim solution and our people's right to self-determiantion.

The negotiating team has been taking successive backward steps. It has agreed to stop pressing for the applicability of Resolution 242 to all the stages of a solution. The negotiating team has also conceded the American-Zionist demand that committees be set up to examine the details of the self-rule plan. The DFLP and the PFLP emphasized that this retrogressive policy pursued by the negotiating team, with support from the dominant echelons in the PLO, represents a breach of the principles of national consensus; circumvents the decisions of the PLO's legitimate institutions; and disregards our people's will by threatening their national future and paving the road for dispensing with the PLO, splitting its ranks, and ending its role as the sole legitimate representative of our people.

The two fronts reiterated their condemnation of this retrogessive line that is being pursued behind the backs of our people. They called for a referendum to be held for the Palestinians within and outside of Palestine to determine their national future. The two sides underscored the need for our people and their striving forces to stiffen their resistance to the administrative self-rule and the pertinent settlement [al-taswiyah] and displacement proposals. They also underlined the centrality of the Palestinian forces that oppose this plan of liquidation to agree among themselves on tangible and practical steps to muster mass opposition to it with a view to toppling it.

The two fronts call upon our masses in the homeland, in refugee camps, and in the diaspora to fully observe the general strike called for Wednesday, 23 September, as an articulation of their scorn for the self-rule proposal and their determination to demolish it. Aware of the immediate risks to our people's national cause, the onerous responsibility they shoulder in standing up to these dangers, and the importance of upgrading coordination and militant cooperation between them so as to foster the role of the democratic forces in our people's militant struggle and their glorious intifadah, the two fronts have decided to create a unified command structure to steer joint action between them in various political, popular, and militant spheres within the framework of the struggle to frustrate the administrative self-rule plan and the projects of settlement and displacement, to develop the glorious intifadah, and to safeguard the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of our people so that it sticks to its national program resting on our people's right to return, self-determination, and an independent state on their soil.

The meeting examined ways to bolster cooperation and coordination with all democratic forces within the framework of the PLO to advance these goals. They stressed the need to pursue and develop joint action with all nationalist and Islamic forces that see eye to eye on the necessity to oppose the administrative self-rule plan and to fight to demolish it. Victory to the intifadah and defeat to the solutions and plans for liquidation.

[Signed] The PFLP, the DFLP

Unified Leadership Issues Addendum to Statement 86

LD2209214192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Sep 92

["Text" of addendum to Statement No. 86 of the Unified National Leadership; release date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful, no voice rises higher than the voice of the Intifadah; no voice rises higher than the voice of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. Call, call, call. Addendum to Statement No. 86: O masses of our struggling people, O free men of this nation: We address you through this our statement to put before you a number of facts that should not be absent from your mind. Owing to the principle of keeping the masses in continuous interaction with the events taking place in the arena, and in order to define the reality and nature of the course that the struggling march of our people should follow, it was absolutely necessary to create a process of interaction for all segments of the people which, without doubt, have made its point on more than one occasion.

These masses, through their direct rallying around the legitimate and historic leadership of this people represented by the Palestinian Liberation Organization, have the highest examples of militancy, and have written, in letters of light and fire, the true, firm, incorruptible national stances that are subject to no interpretation or distortion.

It was through this great rallying of this people around their leadership and revolution that all conferences calling for the Balkanization of the region were foiled, as were all hired slogans which are proposed by those capitals to attain narrow and regional interests.

O masses of our heroic people, our national cause is indivisible and its legitimate representative is also indivisible. Consequently, any decision or voice emanating from outside our militant national line is to be added to the rest of the conspiracies which no doubt are aimed at the unity of this people and try to deal a blow to the Palestinian national rank in general.

Those 10 groups met a few days ago in Damascus and issued a statement attacking the peace process. We are not here to refute those groups' claims, which are very far from the facts of the issues and their courses. We would like to emphasize that we are not against those politically opposing the peace process, but we are against the deviation from the facts of the issues and against the interpretation and distortion of those facts. Their aim is to transfer the political dispute to the national scene with the aim of splitting it and striking it a final blow.

We favor expressing viewpoints through democratic means and simultaneously through the legitimate institutions of our sole and legitimate representative, the Palestinian Liberation Organization, and not through the formation of rejection fronts or raising slogans which indicate nothing except an attempt to harm the exclusiveness of the national representation. On this basis we, in the Unified National Leadership, emphasize the following:

First: We invite all groups for a comprehensive national dialogue on a patriotic basis and through the legitimate channels and institutions of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. The expression of views should be on a scientific and patriotic basis.

Second: The Unified National Leadership emphasizes the principle of not transferring the political dispute to the Palestinian public and thereby dragging our masses into side quarrels having unfavorable results.

Third: We reject all forms of factionalism and fronts that oppose the Palestinian Liberation Organization and that aim at the heart of our Palestinian struggle.

Fourth: The Unified National Leadership rejects the call for the meeting by the 10 groups in Damascus and considers it as null and void—namely, the call for a total strike on 23 September as a protest against the peace process and its course. It considers that day, Wednesday, 23 September, to be a day on which shops are open for trading all hours of the day. We also call upon the masses of our heroic people not to be swayed by rhetorical and glittering slogans.

If there is anyone who wants to prove himself and the credibility of his views, let him start through the militant means at the struggle arena and not through selfishness, interpretations, and distortions.

Islamic Jihad Rejects Referendum on Peace

JN2309085792 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Sep 92 p 21

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Jihad Movement has rejected the idea of holding a referendum on the peace solutions, as called for by some Palestinian organizations. In a statement issued in this regard, the movement said that the referendum is totally rejected. It said that even if all those polled agree that Israel should continue to exist as a state, their decision will not be valid because they do not have the right to decide the future of even one inch of the land of Palestine because the Koran rejects this.

Camps in Lebanon Strike To Protest Autonomy Plan

NC2309101592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The Palestinian camps in Lebanon staged a general strike today in response to an appeal by the resistance groups to protest the negotiations in Washington and the proposed autonomy plan. Schools and shops inside the camps were closed and tires were set on fire at the camps' entrances.

Jerusalem Seen as Capital of 'Palestine,' Israel

NC2209205292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1142 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian officials have said that the problem of Jerusalem could be resolved by making the city the capital of both Palestine and Israel within a framework of a comprehension solution of the Palestinian issue.

In a statement to MENA, PLO Executive Comittee Member Jamal al- Surani said that East Jerusalem should remain an Arab city because it contains Islamic and Christian holy places, which the whole world knows cannot be entrusted to the Israelis, who tried more than once to burn down and demolish the al-Aqsa Mosque. They also looted the Church of the Holy Sepulcher several times, he said.

Al-Surani explained that after the Palestinian issue is completely settled and the Palestinian people obtain their rights, Jerusalem could remain a united city and become the capital of Palestine and Israel. He said that the status of Jerusalem and its future should not be excluded from talks on the Palestinian issue, stressing the need for a comprehensive solution of the problem of Jerusalem.

Palestine National Council Secretary Muhammad Subayh said that the exemplary solution is to make Jerusalem the capital of Palestine and Israel with the borders of the united city encompassing East and West Jerusalem. He said that Israel wants to judaize the whole city and to change its geographic and demographic character. This is totally rejected because it contravenes the UN resolutions and violates the Palestinian people's rights. He said that Israel wants the Arabs just to visit the holy places in Jerusalem without having any rights there. He stressed that this is comletely rejected.

Subayh said Israel's assertion that the whole of Jerusalem constitutes its capital will obstruct the peace process. He explained that the exemplary solution is for East Jerusalem to be the capital of the state of Palestine and West Jerusalem the capital of the state of Israel. The city will remain united, the borders between its two parts will be open, and there will be free movement between its two parts. He pointed to the possibility of a joint administration of the city and to the formation of a joint municipal council that will run the affairs of the united city withhin a framework of a solution of the Palestinian issue.

Egypt

UAE President Arrives on Official Visit 21 Sep

Begins Talks With Mubarak

NC2109172692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Alexandria, 21 Sep (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], arrived in Alexandria this evening on a four-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak.

President Mubarak led the reception party for Shaykh Zayid and the delegation accompanying him at Burj al-'Arab Air Base. The president accompanied Shaykh Zayid to al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria, where the distinguished Arab guest will stay during his visit.

Talks between presidents Mubarak and Zayid began immediately after Shaykh Zayid's arrival in Alexandria from Morocco.

Presents Plan on Dispute With Iran

JN2209183192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Talks resumed between the Egyptian and United Arab Emirates [UAE] presidents in Alexandria. Well-informed diplomatic sources said that UAE President Shaykh Zayid presented to President Mubarak a plan to face the current situation in the Gulf.

Politically, the plan calls on the Arab countries to intervene politically with Iran to make it go back on its decision to occupy the islands. If Iran does not respond to Arab mediation within this framework, the UAE proposes that the Arab countries should sever all political and diplomatic contacts with it and raise the issue at the United Nations.

Economically, the plan calls for tightening the economic blockade on Iran and stopping all trade and economic transactions with it. The plan also calls on Arab countries and the international community, particularly the countries that signed defense accords with the Gulf states, to adopt a military and economic position to face the Iranian aggression against the UAE's sovereignty.

Al-Baz Details Meeting

NC2209160592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Alexandria, 22 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, said that President Husni Mubarak and United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan shared identical views on the various topics discussed during the first session of talks between the two sides.

In a statement following the session, al-Baz said that President Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid reviewed all aspects of the situation in the Arab world, the recent events in the Gulf region, and the Middle East peace talks.

Al-Baz said that the two presidents agreed on the need to strengthen the Arab tendency to settle existing problems in the region. They also agreed to consolidate the Arab position and to exploit its elements of strength. He said that President Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid shared the same views on the issues discussed.

On the implementation of the Damascus Declaration provisions regarding the recent events in the Gulf, al-Baz said: We take this declaration very seriously. It expresses the political approach of Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf Cooperation Council states. The situation there does not require any military or semimilitary steps at all. But the door is open for political and diplomatic contacts.

About the recent mediation efforts between the UAE and Iran, al-Baz said: According to our information, there is no mediation in the real sense of the word. There are some parties that are interested in maintaining calm in this vital region and in not escalating the situation. These parties are undertaking efforts here and there, but there is no mediation in the real sense of the word. Some states are holding contacts either at their own initiative or at the request of the parties to the crisis. He expressed the hope that the crisis will be resolved in a way that will not harm the Arab rights.

Al-Baz said: Any harm to the Arab nation's strategic interests is a serious matter, which we do not accept. We insist that any settlement of this dispute must safeguard Arab rights. It must preserve the rights of the UAE, its sovereignty on its territory and territorial waters, and its economic rights.

About the suitable solution that the UAE perceives for its dispute with Iran over some islands, al-Baz said: The matter has not yet reached the point of making a decision or pursuing a certain course. The UN and Arab League Charters call for settling problems through peaceful and friendly means. We are at the stage of learning what has happened and what the Iranian intentions are regarding this subject.

Al-Baz said that the Arab side does not want to escalate the situation. But there is resolve to adhere to Arab rights, the right to sovereignty, the right to protect the oil sources, and other legitimate rights.

Al-Baz said: We are still at the stage of assessing the Iranian position and learning its aims and dimensions. Why has Iran chosen to escalate its intervention in the region, not only in the disputed islands? What are the dimensions and aims of this position? The stage of contacts will come next. I do not say the stage of reconciliation and arbitration, although this is plausible if any side to the dispute desires so. But we have not reached this point yet.

Asked whether Egypt has held contacts with Syria regarding the dispute between Iran and the UAE, al-Baz said: There are continuous contacts and consultations between Egypt

and Syria. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad recently visited Egypt. It was natural that this subject aroused the interest of Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad and also Shaykh Zayid, who will pay a visit to Damascus shortly.

About whether contacts have been held with Syria in the past 48 hours to assess the Iranian position after the recent visit by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Tehran, al-Baz said: It is too early to assess the Iranian position or to learn the objectives that Iran seeks to achieve.

Al-Baz said: We hope that Iran will stop this behavior—whether with the fraternal state of the UAE or with any Arab state, because neither Iran nor any country can impose its will or create by force a de facto situation in this region.

He added: We are absolutely adamant on this issue. We believe that the precedent of using force in the Gulf two years ago in the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was a serious one and yielded very harmful results to the Arab nation. No other party should even consider resorting to force, in one degree or another, or imposing a new de facto situation through an armed force, even if this military intervention were to be limited regionally.

He added: In principle, we remain opposed to such an act carried out by any party, especially in the Gulf region. The Gulf region is sensitive and important to all regional and international parties. Each party ought to respect the rules and principles of law, and absolutely should not give itself the right to impose a fait accompli on these countries.

Commenting about the impediments to a direct dialogue to restoring relations between Egypt and Iran, Dr. al-Baz said: Sincerely, what happened was that the Iranian side began to show a desire to restore diplomatic relations with us. Our view was that it was not us who initially broke these ties and that we did not commit any hostile or nonhostile acts or even any act that might be interpreted as hostile to Iran or any other country.

He added: Therefore, if Iran wishes to improve the course of relations, we have no objection in principle. All we ask from Iran is that it adhere to the requirements and bases that we regard as fundamental and essential if Iran truly aims to mend its relations with Egypt.

Al-Baz pointed out that the first of the principles that Egypt feels Iran should stick to is for it to respect every Arab country's sovereignty and right to adopt the policy that it believes will achieve its people's demands, and that Iran should not give itself the right to interfere in any Arab country's affairs on the pretext of the Islamic movement or any other nomenclature.

He said: All this is rejected. We reject intervention in any Arab country's internal affairs, and ask Iran to refrain from any act threatening security in any Arab country or any part of the Arab homeland.

He noted that Iran should be committed to this requirement, implement it sincerely, and not attempt to impose its options or policies on anyone or extend its hegemony or control over anyone, because all this will fail and poison the climate of relations. He said that Iran cannot claim that it is seeking to improve ties with the Arab countries unless it insists on this issue. He emphasized that when the time comes, and when Iran's commitment in this respect becomes evident, the road will then be open to restoring diplomatic relations between Egypt and Iran.

Al-Baz was asked whether President Husni Mubarak will visit any Gulf state during his forthcoming tour of several Asian countries. He said that the visit's program has not yet been prepared, and that President Mubarak is likely to contact his brother heads of the fraternal Arab states. However, he reiterated, no program has been laid out for such a visit.

Commenting about the relations between Egypt and the UAE, he said that the two Arab leaders, Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid, reviewed these relations during their talks today. There was agreement on ways of cooperating and coordinating in various fields, especially in political, economic, and cultural spheres.

Mubarak, al-Qadhdhafi Hold Teleconference 21 Sep

NC2109205192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Alexandria, 21 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this evening received a telephone call from Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The two Arab leaders discussed current issues within the framework of their continued consultations and coordination.

Sidqi Cited on Economy, Peace Negotiations

NC2009130892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi said that the economy will start a new phase next year—or the year after at the latest—now that a solution to the economic problems has been found. These problems consist of a deficit in the balance of payments and the general budget, as well as a scarcity of foreign currency.

In statements to the Saudi newspaper AL-YAWM, Dr. Sidqi expressed his hopes that Arab and foreign investments will increase. On the Arab level, Dr. Sidqi expressed his belief that the success of the Middle East peace process is linked fully to the return of the Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967 to their rightful owners and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Dr. Sidqi said the current talks between Israel and the Arab parties must achieve some progress for all parties within the framework of Resolution 242 and autonomy [al-hukm al-dhati], as well as discussing the subject of guaranteeing security on all fronts. He affirmed that if progress is made in these issues it will be an indication that a comprehensive solution is about to be realized.

Concerning the subject of the settlements, the prime minister said his country does not agree to the classification of settlements and makes no distinction between security and

political ones. He said that one cannot talk about peace while part of the land continues to be usurped.

Delegation to Moscow Multilateral Talks Returns

NC2009113892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Sep (MENA)—Egypt's delegation to the second round of the multilateral talks for arms control and security arrangements returned to Cairo today. The talks were held in Moscow from 13 to 17 September under the chairmanship of the peace sponsor countries, the United States and Russia. The delegation was led by Major General Ahmad Fakhr. [passage omitted]

Delegate to Water Talks Returns, Says No Progress

NC1909095192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—Ambassador Fawzi al-Ibrashi, assistant foreign minister and chairman of the Egyptian delegation to the water committee of the Middle East multilateral talks, which met in Washington last Tuesday and Wednesday, returned to Cairo this morning.

On arrival, he stated that all the delegations except the Syrian and Lebanese attended this session and, because of this, it failed to make progress. He noted that these two states were also absent from the previous two sessions.

Ambassador al-Ibrashi said that U.S. President George Bush expressed the hope that the two countries will take part now that Sweden has agreed to host a seminar to discuss problems relating to water.

The assistant foreign minister emphasized that no progress can be made in the multilaterals unless tangible progress is made in Arab-Israeli bilateral talks and until comprehensive peace is established in the region.

He said that Article Four—relating to regional cooperation—faced difficulties, because the delegations believe that regional cooperation comes after, rather than before, peace. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Polisario Front Ready To Cooperate With UN

LD2109171592 Algiers APS in English 1335 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Algiers, 21/09/92 (APS)—"The Polisario Front can no more make concessions to Morocco; it will remain ready to cooperate with the UN for the enforcement of the peace plan", the Sahraoui ambassador to Algeria, Mohamed Lamine, on Sunday. During a press conference held in Algiers, Mohamed Lamine declared that the Polisario Front "opposes the definition of the electoral body imposed by Morocco ", nevertheless, it still accepts the presence of the Moroccan administration and forces during the referendum operation to accelerate the enforcement of the peace plan. The Security Council adopted the Resolution 690 which set up a UN mission for the organization of a self-determination referendum in Western Sahara, where Sahraoui populations are invited to choose between independence or the joining to Morocco.

According to Mohamed Lamine, the front accused Morocco "to block" the peace process, by proceeding to a "mass transfer" of Moroccans in Western Sahara mainly following the failure of deports of Sahraouis in Morocco. Referring to New York negotiations separately undertaken between the UN and the two sides in the conflict, Morocco and the Polisario Front Lamine announced that they are carried on "in spite of major obstacles posed by Morocco". "We remain ready to dialogue with Moroccans but if these latters continue to hamper the enforcement of the peace plan, the Sahraoui people is engaged to resume the armed struggle", Lamine pointed out.

Filali Address to UN General Assembly Noted

LD2209174792 Rabat MAP in English 1238 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] New York, Sep. 22 (MAP)—Moroccan Minister of State to Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali Monday renewed Morocco's commitment to the UN settlement plan on the Sahara and determination to abide by the plan as pledged in spite of the many delays made in implementing the plan and organizing the projected referendum.

Filali, who was addressing the UN General Assembly 47th session Monday, said Morocco keeps on extending all the necessary assistance to help set the mechanisms destined to hold the referendum the soonest and expressed hope that realism would help remove the hindrances and delays impeding the organization of the referendum.

Filali surveyed the activities of the General Assembly and the UN, at large, and the subscription to the UN of several new countries as well as the changes worldwide, particularly the new world importance of the principles it carries such as order and the [words indistinct] market economy and the respect of human rights. "Though, we regard these principles as basic we cannot help wondering on the conditions of their implementation and on their actual content", he said.

He then dealt with world economy specifying that economic depression in developed countries entailed the worsening of the situation in developing ones which suffer from heavier foreign debt, the collapse of raw material prices and the aggravation of economic and social problems.

He stressed the need to set up dialogue throughout the world before the inception of the new world order laying emphasis on the fact that countries should no longer be kept away from important decision making on the future of international relations.

Filali also dealt with Moroccan-EEC relations, recalling that Morocco asked the community to reconsider the nature of the old cooperation relations and make "a qualitative and radical change through the inception of a free trade area and

the setting up of partnership in various fields". He said Morocco hopes that the moves will be enlarged later to the other Maghreb countries.

Other international issues such as relations between Mediterranean countries, the moves of the "5+5" group, peace talks on the Middle East, the concern of Western countries over the situation in Eastern Europe and their neglect of Africa as well as the dwindling of international assistance to African economic development were equally tackled by the Moroccan official who said in this respect that Morocco earmarks 95 percent of its international cooperation budget to brotherly African states whatever its own difficulties.

Filali expressed hope that hot spots in Africa, such as Angola, would be eased the soonest and that further aid be extended to famine-hit Somalia.

He expressed satisfaction at the resumption of dialogue between the South African Government and the African National Council calling on conflicting parties in this country to stop fighting and massacres.

He spoke of the Bosnian tragedy and the ongoing "ethnic cleansing" by the Serbs targeting the Bosnian people. Filali renewed Morocco's condemnation of such terrorism and genocide acts.

Filali Briefs Cabinet on Relations With EC

LD1809220192 Rabat MAP in English 1247 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Rabat, Sept. 18 (MAP)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali Wednesday briefed the cabinet council on Morocco's relations with the European Economic Community and steps covered in ongoing discussions and negotiations aimed at setting new bases and regulations to Moroccan-EEC relations in the commercial, economic, financial and social realms.

The cabinet, chaired by Premier Karim Lamrani, also examined four European conventions Morocco was invited to adhere to by the European Council.

The conventions are related to the protection of archaeological heritage and old monuments, exchange of information on international law to promote cooperation between judiciary authorities in matters of judiciary organization, penal, civil and commercial codes and judiciary assistance, the exchange of TV programs and the banning of the broadcasting of radio programs from stations located outside the national territory aboard boats, planes or others.

The council finally examined the headquarters accord between Morocco and the Alecso regarding the Rabat-based Arabization Coordination Bureau. Pursuant to this accord signed in 1991, the bureau headquarters as well as its property, funds and non-Moroccan staff enjoy the same immunity as other international organizations having headquarters in Morocco.

IFC Pledges $110 Million To Banks in 1992

LD1809200492 Rabat MAP in English 1227 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Washington, Sept 18 (MAP)—The International Finance Corporation, "IFC", pledged an overall 110 million USd loan to Moroccan commercial banks in 1992.

IFC says that economic reforms incepted by the kingdom in the mid 1980's in the sector of property and finance have paved the way for investments stressing the fact that foreign investments have increased four-folds in the last five years. The trend is very encouraging, says the institution which pledges to carry on financial backing to Moroccan enterprises epespecially in the realm of tourism, infrastrcture and telecommunications.

In 1992, IFC extended Moroccan enterprise 150 million USd in syndicated loans.

Trade Unions' 'Coordination Meeting' Noted

LD1809204292 Rabat MAP in English 1252 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Rabat, Sept. 18 (MAP)—The two major trade unions "UGTM" [Moroccan General Workers Union] and "CDT" [Confederation of Democratic Workers] associated with opposition parties denounced the "old methods" and blame the government for emptying talks of their contents.

The Istiqlal Party dailies "L'OPINION" and "AL ALAM" report in this respect that the executive bureaus of the UGTM associated with the Istiqlal, and of the CDT associated with the USFP [Socialist Union of Popular Forces], and the National Bureau of the SNE/SUP [expansion unknown] held "a coordination meeting" Wednesday to examine and assess the outcome of the meeting a joint delegation from the trade unions held Tuesday with some ministers, under the chairmanship of Premier Karim Lamrani.

According to the trade unions, the meeting with the government resulted "in nothing new" as the government has not changed its stand regarding the problems facing the Moroccan labor class. The meeting did not record any noteworthy result since the government has not made any propositions nor answers to the labor claims and grievances as voiced in several previous memoranda, and especially in the memorandum addressed to the government before the strike of December 14, 1990 and the urgent memorandum of May 2, 1992, the unions said.

"AL-MAGHRIB", daily of the National Rally of Independents, also published on the front page a story on the government-unions dialogue pointing out that dialogue is taking place in a special juncture that is of paramount importance to the country.

For the daily, what matters most is to hold an open dialog and consequently secure smooth landing at the economic, social and political levels.

Candidates for Communal Seats Exceed 4,000

LD1909161892 Rabat MAP in English 1304 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 19 (MAP)—Some 4417 applications for candidacy to communal seats were recorded by concerned authorities in the 60 Moroccan prefectures and provinces comprising 1544 communes which in turn are divided into 22,282 constituencies during the first days of the opening of candidacy registration on September 13.

The figures show that candidates of all political trends have registered in almost all the communes in addition to 1797 people of belonging to no political party whose number is the highest followed by candidates of the National Rally of Independents (1029), the Popular Movement (534), the National Popular Movement (327), the Constitutional Union (287), the National Democratic Party (190), the Istiqlal Party (133), the Party for Progress and Socialism (44), the Socialist Union for Popular Forces (40), the Popular, Democratic and Constitutional Movement (28), the Democracy and Istiqlal Party (4) the Party for Action (3) and the National Union for Popular Forces

Women Register as Candidates for Local Councils

LD2209232592 Rabat MAP in English 1357 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Rabat, Sept. 22 (MAP)—More than 40 women have so far registered as candidates for local councils, show provisional figures released by Regional Administration Authorities.

The number of registered candidacies reached 13,815 by Sept. 20 and the number of women registered is on steady rise. The largest number is running under the banner of the National Rally of Independents which already boasts 18 lady-candidates.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Comments on Elections, Iraq

PM2209135992 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 19 Sep 92 p 4

[Interview with Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, by Muhammad al-Rumayhi; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Rumayhi] Your Highness, the Heir Apparent, do you support the classification of candidates in the elections into government and opposition candidates, as some people are proposing now?

[Al-Sabah] First, as is known, the door is open to our brothers the candidates in accordance with the known laws in force. And any Kuwaiti who finds the capability in himself and who meets the conditions for candidacy will find the door open to him to serve his homeland. In this connection we do not differentiate among them or set conditions other than those known to everyone. The arena is open to all. It concerns me as a citizen and official that the upcoming elections should be held in a friendly and brotherly atmosphere and that everyone should adopt the slogan "always in the service of Kuwait." [passage omitted]

[Al-Rumayhi] Do you believe that the security question, especially as the country has just emerged from a catastrophe, could affect the course of the elections? And in your view, what is required to balance the election process as a whole and the security situation in the country?

[Al-Sabah] The security issue concerning the safety of citizens and the homeland must be above any other interest, because I believe in the utmost importance of security matters. And everyone should cooperate with Interior Ministry officials and the security organs concerned with providing security for all. Everyone must fight the election process in accordance with the stipulations of the election law. I realize that a number of observers and reporters from all over the world will be coming to Kuwait to cover the election process. And I hope that the candidates in particular and citizens in general will ensure that this process, which we care about, is conducted in an atmosphere of security and that a spirit of brotherhood and sound democratic competitiveness will prevail among all, as we have always experienced in Kuwait. And I have no doubt whatsoever that everyone is as concerned with this matter as any officials. [passage omitted]

[Al-Rumayhi] With regard to Arab relations, you emphasized in your interview with the international magazine NEWSWEEK that Kuwait is committed to its Arab affiliation and the Arab nation's causes. Has the time come to reassess Kuwait's relationship with the Arab brothers, whether in the framework of Arab relations in general or with regard to strengthening ties with the Damascus declaration states?

[Al-Sabah] We look forward to further cooperation with the brothers and friends. When we talk about the Arab brothers, we should distinguish between the brothers who stood by us during the evil Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in all spheres—informational, political, and economic—and whose firm support was crowned with military action and the restoration of the legitimate authority, and those who stood against us in our predicament. I imagine that, while Kuwaiti citizens remember the honorable stances, they will not forget the stances of some of the Arab states which supported the Iraqi regime in its aggression and barbarous occupation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

[Al-Rumayhi] Your Highness, the Heir Apparent, as you know, the prisoners and hostages issue is important and there are extensive and continued attempts in various spheres to follow it up. We know that you have made numerous and extensive efforts in this connection, especially in securing the adoption of Security Council Resolution 687. What are your views in this connection, especially in the light of the Iraqi regime's insistence that there are no Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq? How can the Iraqi regime be compelled to respond to these international resolutions and demands? And are there any Kuwaiti moves in this regard?

[Al-Sabah] That issue is our first preoccupation as Kuwaitis. We insist on the implementation of the clauses of Security Council Resolution 687, first and foremost the clauses concerning the issue of the prisoners held hostage by the Iraqi regime in Iraqi jails.

The Iraqi regime must implement all stipulations of this resolution, and indeed implement all the Security Council resolutions adopted under international law.

[Al-Rumayhi] Your Highness, the Heir Apparent, there is talk about an Iraqi government in exile. Do you support the establishment of an Iraqi government in exile, and what is your position toward the Iraqi opposition?

[Al-Sabah] With regard to the opposition outside Iraq, I am monitoring the statements issued by opposition parties. But the government in exile issue is an Iraqi affair, left to the Iraqis themselves to decide on.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince Notes Importance of Ties to Iran

LD2309072992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Saudi Arabia has described the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] as a very important country in the region and in the world of Islam and has called for the expansion of ties between Riyadh and Tehran. In a meeting this afternoon with Mr. Hadi, the IRI's ambassador to Riyadh, Saudi Crown Prince Amir 'Abdallah praised the IRI's president for his intelligence and his mastery over international issues and said that there was a need for the expansion of bilateral ties.

In the meeting, our country's ambassador enumerated the conspiracies of the enemies of the Islamic world aimed at

sowing discord among Islamic countries and stressed the need for vigilance in the face of those conspiracies.

Paper Welcomes, Justifies U.S. Fighter Deal

PM2209113192 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 14 Sep 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Our Will... and Our Political and Military Decision"]

[Text] The King of Saudi Arabia's government has for many years been eager to develop and modernize the various sectors of its Armed Forces and to provide them with the latest high-capability defense systems.

This interest proceeds from the reality of the Armed Forces' role, on the grounds that they are the protective shield designed to defend our territory and holy places and safeguard the homeland's security and stability against any party which thinks of harming or tampering with this homeland's security and achievements.

Saudi strategy for building the Armed Forces is based on securing two basic elements: First, faithful, qualified, and highly trained fighters; second, modern and advanced weapons to enable these men to assume the task of protecting the homeland and the holy places and deterring anyone who thinks of harming it.

The Kingdom's request to purchase 72 U.S. F-15's fell within this framework, and two days ago President Bush agreed to sell them to the Kingdom.

The Saudi request and President Bush's agreement to it highlight and prove a number of important realities and dimensions, first and foremost that the Saudi leadership had planned to reactivate the request to purchase these aircraft at this particular time, after thorough analysis of all conditions and changes relating to the acquisition of these aircraft, in order to ensure that they would actually be acquired.

In this context President Bush's agreement, which is an important step toward acquiring these advanced aircraft, is regarded as a distinguished success for Saudi diplomacy and for Saudi military and political decisionmaking, which primarily aims to secure everything necessary to strengthen the military capabilities of our Armed Forces and secure the acquisition of all the advanced weapons they need despite complex regional and international changes.

We were not surprised by U.S. President George Bush's support for the Kingdom's aquisition of these aircraft and for the fulfillment of its request in this connection. This is because President Bush is fully aware of the present and future conditions and changes which the region and the world are experiencing. And he fully appreciates the Kingdom's legitimate defense requirements.

Nor will we be surprised by the principled support of the U.S. people as represented by their legislative institutions for the kingdom's acquisition of these aircraft. Actually we certainly expect the Saudi request to receive final approval from all the U.S. political institutions.

This stems from everyone's understanding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's policy, on the grounds that it is a force seeking to establish stability and peace, not only in our region but throughout the world.... Thus strengthening its defense capabilities and Armed Forces represents an addition to the forces of stability and peace. Besides, it is the kingdom's legitimate right to acquire these aircraft.

Moreover, the wish to acquire more weapons is a purely Saudi matter which falls within its vision and its leadership's assessment of the situation.

Securing 72 F-15's for the Saudi Armed Forces is a step within the framework of numerous steps to strengthen and modernize the Armed Forces according to a planned and organized method designed to meet their legitimate defense requirements and develop their capabilities to defend the territory, people, system, and achievements. This is because our country embraces the most sacred and the purest of the holy places, and our duty and responsibility to the homeland and the holy places necessitate that we direct everyone's attention to this matter.

As for us, this matter is at the forefront of our priorities, and we will not allow anyone to harm these holy places or any inch of the kingdom's territory. Nor will we allow any concessions to be made to any party at any time.

At the same time, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's decision to proceed with the plans to develop its military capabilities stem from its own interests, which are determined by it and dictated by its national will without paying any attention to any other considerations stirred up in one location or another.

And while Saudi Arabia has based the strategy for building its Armed Forces on building the human and armament elements together, without doubt the conscious and ambitious Saudi generation which is the fruit of many years of preparation, education, and training has proved that it is an object of pride for this country—territory, homeland, people, and state. And it deserves to be provided with all the capabilities for applying its ambition, intelligence, and ability to deal with the most sophisticated products of modern technology and use them very efficiently—as has been proved in practice.

United Arab Emirates

Meeting With Iran on Islands Set For 27 Sep

NC2309091692 Paris AFP in English 0855 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 23 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iran have agreed to meet here Sunday to

discuss their dispute over Abu Musa and other islands, a UAE official said Wednesday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the meeting would be held in Abu Dhabi and attended by the directors of Gulf affairs at their respective foreign ministries.

"The UAE and Iran have reached agreement to hold a meeting in Abu Dhabi on Sunday to discuss all the problems between them," he told AFP.

The two countries have been locked in dispute over Abu Musa and the two nearby islands of Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek.

The UAE has accused Iran of virtually annexing Abu Musa after Iranian authorities turned away a UAE boat last month. The two countries have shared administration of the island under a 1971 British-sponsored agreement.

There was no official confirmation of the meeting from the UAE or Iran.

Baghdad 'Determined' To Reclaim Northern Provinces

NC2209164092 Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Karkuk, Iraq, Sept 22 (AFP)—Iraq said on Tuesday it is determined to regain control over three Kurdish northern provinces and threatened those who broke away from its rule.

Yasir Hassan Sultan, the governor of Iraq's main oil center, told AFP the Kurds could not indefinitely "defy" the authority of Baghdad.

Hassan, an official from the Iraqi ruling Ba'th Party added: "All those who oppose Iraq will regret it."

His remarks came as Iraqi opposition groups gathered Tuesday in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq for a meeting Wednesday to discuss united policy and setting up a single force of pershmerga fighters.

Iraq does not recognise the Kurdish government formed in May in Irbil and accused Gulf war allies—Britain, France and the United States—of having provided the Kurds with the incentive to hold elections and set up an administration.

Allied warplanes have been patrolling north of the 36th parallel to protect the Kurds in northern Iraq following their abortive attempt in March to overthrow the Baghdad government.

Sultan said the Kurds were bound to lose their ability to resist the central authorities once the patrols stopped, Sultan said.

Their political structures in the provinces of Dahuk, Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah would "fail to function" because of "the will of the people," he added.

According to Sultan, Kurdish opposition to the newly-created Kurdish government was taking root in northern Iraq. He did not elaborate.

Iraqi officials in Karkuk meanwhile reported that "practically all" the Kurds who had fled the city in the wake of the fighting between Iraqi government forces and the rebels last year had returned home.

"The Kurds are no longer frightened. They've come back home," a local official said.

He said returning Kurdish families were given "a little more than 100 dinars (320 dollars at the official exchange rate) by the authorities to help them settle again in Karkuk.

Hundreds of Kurdish families fled their homes, leaving behind their personal belongings and household effects, when Iraqi troops entered the city in April 1991 to dislodge Kurdish peshmerga fighters who had seized control for several weeks.

Iraq's Kurdish opposition consider Karkuk—home to 750,000 people including Arabs and Turkomen—a fully-fledged part of Kurdistan. Baghdad has repeatedly rejected the claim.

Less than two years after the fighting between peshmerga combatants and Iraqi troops, security forces are omnipresent in the teeming, dusty city.

The city is also Baghdad's last bastion before Kurdish-controlled areas further north, "where security cannot be guaranteed because of Kurdish dissident activity," the Karkuk governor said.

The once-flourishing oil operations of Iraq's North Oil Company have slowed down dramatically since August 1990, when the U.N. slapped a trade embargo on Iraq days after it invaded Kuwait.

The road to Baghdad, 250 kilometers (155 miles) further south, is dotted with military camps, with anti-aircraft guns pointing skywards.

Kurdish Leaders Meet, Set Agenda for Talks 23 Sep

NC2209132792 Paris AFP in English 1222 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By Clare Pointon]

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Sept 22 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurdish leaders met Tuesday to draw up a final agenda for an opposition meeting due to open in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq on Wednesday.

Under tight security, the last delegates were arriving in the region for their first opposition gathering inside Iraqi territory, to be hosted by the Kurdistan Front coalition.

Western forces based in southeastern Turkey have agreed to provide increased air cover over the coming week, said Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP).

Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said on his return to the region Monday from a tour of Western capitals that the timing of the conference was "critical" for the future of Iraq.

He was "optimistic" that an agreement among all sides would be reached.

"We have been convinced that everyone wants to see (President) Saddam Husayn ousted ... [ellipsis as received] and we have been assured by the United States, France and Britain that they support a democratic system in Iraq and the idea of a federation," he said.

"Now we have the opportunity to prove to the outside world that the Iraqi opposition can work together without the advice or interference of the outside world and also that we are not the tools of anyone," he told AFP.

The talks starting Wednesday are to be held in Irbil, the home of an Iraqi Kurdish parliament elected in May in defiance of Baghdad. The meeting aims to prepare the ground for an opposition congress.

The congress, under the banner "Toward a democratic and federal Iraq" for its Kurds and Shiite and Sunni Arabs, is to take place in October, according to Kamal Fu'ad of the PUK.

Sayyid Muhammad al-Haydari, delegate for a key Iraqi Shiite group, also said he hoped all the different groups would be able to agree on a programme for a democratic Iraq.

Al-Haydari said his group, the Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), believed an agreement could lead to the election of an opposition national assembly and an executive committee.

If the Iraqi army and its people saw a strong and united opposition, he said, they would be encouraged to "step up their struggle against Baghdad."

"In general we feel that all the factions have come to this conference hoping to achieve unity and we will do our best to do so," he said.

Islamic movements have previously voiced reservations on joint action with secular groups, while the Kurds have said the Shiites had shown little enthusiasm for their campaign for Kurdish autonomy in a federated Iraq.

The main factions of the splintered opposition last met in Beirut in March 1991. Several groups held a conference in June in Vienna, but it was boycotted by Shiite movements based in Tehran and Damascus.

Ahmad Al-Jalabi, a London-based Shiite delegate, said he believed foreign skepticism about how workable an opposition of the different groups could be was rooted in Western stereotypes of Islamic groups.

"The Iraqi opposition has now come of age and we are no longer squabbling about ideological differences because we all see a realistic project—to get rid of Saddam Husayn," he said.

Al-Jalabi said last week that plans to set up a Shiite safe haven in southern Iraq, similar to the security zone for the Kurds of the north patrolled by Western warplanes, would figure high in the opposition meetings.

Commander Refutes Media Claims of Military Coup

JN2209194892 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Sep 92 pp 1, 6

[Text] Last night, during its "People Talk" program, [Iraqi] television carried an interview with fighter Colonel Sabri Mahmud, commander of an antiaircraft battalion. The evil enemy news media claims he led a military brigade from al-Taji area in an attempted military coup. The enemy news media also claimed that he was killed by the Special Forces, which prevented him from entering Baghdad.

Fighter Sabri Mahmud refuted the falsehood and wickedness of the enemy news media. He renewed his allegiance, and that of his fighters, to remain loyal to the great leader President Saddam Husayn and to great Iraq.

This interview was carried to refute the claims of the poisonous enemy news media and their evil methods of fabricating and forging facts, which take many forms, to affect the morale and steadfastness of Arab and Iraqi citizens, and their rallying around the symbol of their dignity, glory, and pride.

Saddam Orders Training for Presidential 'Doubles'

NC2209191192 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1707 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Dictator Saddam Husayn has asked [presidential adviser] Latif Nusayyif Jasim to open a special training course for a number of persons who closely resemble the dictator. These individuals will act as doubles for the dictator and will imitate him in eveything. Saddam has asked Jasim to employ the services of the best cosmetic surgeons and makeup artists.

PUK Shells Army Positions, Claims 20 Killed

NC2209193992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1707 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] The dictatorial regime's forces have continued to shell the Klar region. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan artillery retaliated by shelling the regime's forces in the areas of (Jabbari), Kani Masi, and (Miryari) for 90 minutes. The shelling resulted in the killing or wounding of 20 Iraqi soldiers and in the destruction of one ammunition depot and one 130-mm gun.

IAEA Blamed for Not Evacuating Radioactive Fuel

NC2209145092 Paris AFP in English 1425 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Vienna, Sept 22 (AFP)—Iraq accused the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Tuesday of endangering the environment and people living near a site where the agency has stored radioactive fuel which was to have left the country.

But the agency hit back saying that the Baghdad government was blocking funds which were to pay for the transport of the fuel which has been recovered during investigations of Iraq's secret nuclear programme.

Human 'Abd'-al-Ghafur, the Iraqi education and scientific research minister, blamed the agency "for being responsible for not putting into practice" a paragraph in U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 which says the material should leave Iraq.

However, an agency spokesman said the IAEA did not have the funds to finance the operation and Baghdad had not paid up.

"The money was to come from the sale of Iraqi crude oil which Baghdad refuses to do on the international market," he said. "We are therefore in an impasse."

The fuel has meanwhile been temporarily stored at an open-air depot near (Tuwaythah). "The fuel is in a very bad state which is getting worse every day and part of it can

break up at any moment, causing a radioactive accident with serious consequences for the neighbouring environment," the minister said.

He added that the IAEA had promised Iraq in the spring that the fuel would be removed within three months.

The agency, which has conducted 14 missions to Iraq since May 1991 to uncover and disarm the secret nuclear weapons programme, said it would cost 20 million dollars to move the 35 kilograms (77 pounds) of fuel to a recycling plant in special containers and aircraft.

It also said it was "troubled" by Iraq's refusal to reveal the suppliers and the advisers to the nuclear programme.

Prime Minister Denounces 'Unjust' Blockade

JN2009125192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has stressed that Iraq's people are united from north to south and that they adhere to their unique leadership headed by President Saddam Husayn because it epitomizes their hopes and aspirations for building their brilliant future.

During his reception of 'Adnan al-Hurub, deputy chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jordanian newspaper SHIHAN, the prime minister said that with the help of God, the determination of their leader, and the generous sacrifices of their sons, Iraq's people will foil the colonialist-Zionist designs, which the United States, Britain, and France are carrying out to harm Iraq's sovereignty and national unity, just as they foiled previous conspiracies.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi highly valued the support of the fraternal Jordanian people and government for Iraq and its fateful causes.

He affirmed that despite the large-scale destruction of its economic infrastructure, Iraq gained much when its struggler men embarked boldly on modern technology by rebuilding what was destroyed by the evil enemies and by building new industrial establishments, bridges, and factories. All this, he added, has produced new Iraqi expertise that has strengthened Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the despicable American-British-French conspiracy.

The prime minister also referred to the suffering of Iraq's children, women, and elderly as a result of the continued unjust economic blockade and the acute shortage of medicines and medical requirements, especially drugs for heart diseases.

'Adnan al-Hurub, deputy chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jordanian newspaper SHIHAN, expressed his solidarity with Iraq's people and their wise leadership in their confrontation of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy.

Health Minister Says U.S. 'Violating' Laws

JN1809185292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] All measures that involve keeping food and medicines from the children of Iraq are null and void, have no legal basis, and are inhumane from the standpoint of the international law, since they are in clear violation of the provisions of the Child's Rights Covenant endorsed by the international community. These remarks were made to INA by Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, health minister, acting labor and social affairs minister, and head of the Children's Care Organization in Iraq. He made it clear that the organization has sent out letters to 20 Arab and other counterparts appealing for observance of the provisions of the Child's Rights Covenant which guarantees the right of all children to health care and a growth promoting standard of living.

Through their aggression against Iraq and by retaining the iniquitous embargo, Mubarak stressed, the United States and its allies are violating numerous international agreements; above all, the international declaration on the survival, protection, and growth of the child, issued by the summit conference on childhood that was convened in September 1991. That declaration emphasized the need to secure the basic needs for children and to take the necessary measures to keep them from starving.

Paper Says Iran Part of U.S. 'Design' in Gulf

JN2009132792 Baghdad INA in English 1205 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 20, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad today said that the Arab character of the Gulf would not be materialized without an Arab decision and an Arab instrument.

A paper article here today said that Arabs of the Gulf could not deny that the Iranian invasion of the Gulf was possible without the strong position of Iraq over eight years of war.

The paper referring to the Iranian occupation of the Arab Gulf island of Abu Musa said that the Arabism of the Arab Gulf returns to the confrontation picture but with the rulers of the Arab Gulf now supporting the political and military Americanization of the Gulf.

The paper said that the American task entrusted to Iran is centered on carrying on the intimidation of the Gulf rulers to justify keeping fleets and armies in the region and also to continue the plundering of oil and its revenues.

The Iraqi paper stressed involvement of the Iranian rulers in the American design against Iraq and said that enemies to the Arabism of the Arab Gulf, in addition to Iran and the imperialist West are the Arabs of the Gulf themselves.

It said that the Arabs of the Gulf were paying huge funds to foreign armies to protect their palaces and that nothing concerned them but that of their personal fate even if that would cost billions of dollars.

The paper concluded by stressing that keenness of Bush, Major and Mitterrand is focused on the fate of oil and its revenues and not on the fate of the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers.

Opposition Figures Appeal for Preserving Iraq

JN2209105592 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Sep 92 p 14

[Text] Baghdad, SAWT AL-SHA'B—Several Iraqi opposition figures who belong to various nationalist, pan-Arab, and democratic streams have addressed an appeal to Iraqi, Arab, and Islamic public opinion, denouncing colonialist-Zionist schemes that are aimed at sowing sectarian and ethnic discord in Iraq.

The figures appealed to the Islamic and Arab nations, as well as liberation movements worldwide, to support the unity of Iraqi territory and people and defeat the conspiracies by breaking the blockade imposed on Iraq.

The statement, which was signed by prominent Iraqi personalities, called for national reconciliation and democratization in Iraq.

The statement said that colonialist-Zionist conspiracies against Iraq and its struggling people, whose first chapter was exposed through the so-called Irangate, which is the deal in which elements of the U.S. presidency, national security, and intelligence took part, in cooperation with Saudi merchants of blood and lascivious wealth, along with suspect elements that sneaked into the Iranian revolution in full coordination with the Israeli intelligence and elements of the counterrevolution from Latin American mercenaries.

This conspiracy is growing bigger today in a dangerous way through the decision made by the U.S., British, and French governments to divide Iraq into latitudes as a prelude to further measures that constitute a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and aim also to create an atmosphere conducive to domestic discord so as to weaken Iraq and drive it to complete surrender or to tear apart the national unity of its territory and people.

It is ironic that the executioners of the people and Shiites of southern Lebanon and the killers of 'Abbas al-Musawi and his wife and children are today pretending to be the protectors of southern Iraq and its struggling people.

At these moments in particular, no national element should be away from the battlefield for any subjective or objective reasons. We should all fight with a dauntless will and composure that enable us to analyze, draw conclusions, and make initiatives, with a warm heart filled with loyalty to the homeland and love for the people, without bearing grudges or harping on trivia. No one of us has ever raised a white flag, and anyone who tries today to raise such a flag will be discarded, whether he does this boldly or diffidently under the pretext of thinking realistically, citing the contemporary global balance of power, or committing the grave mistake of identifying the archenemy.

Two years have passed since the unjust blockade was enforced. Despite that all justifications for the blockade have gone, considering that Iraq withdrew from Kuwait, this blockade is becoming tighter and fiercer. In June 1992, Harvard University in the United States announced that 97,000 Iraqi children under five have died of malnutrition and lack of medicines.

We are asked, after all of this, not to think or look at the bodies of our children so as to believe what they say about human rights, democracy, their love for the people of Iraq and that they only oppose the president of Iraq.

We have to state here also that any society that does not have nationalist and democratic opposition that practices a legitimate right guaranteed by the constitution to criticize, voice its free opinion, and make its own interpretations, is a dormant society whose live forces do not possess a spirit of creative initiative. This could lead to a dependence on negativism on the part of the masses, instead of burning with the spirit of resistance.

Consultation and freedom of opinion and views serve both ruler and citizens. They make political decisionmaking more mature and people take part in the decisionmaking process. People would therefore be ready to defend it until martyrdom. As for unilateral thinking and political decisionmaking, it contradicts the nature and bases of life, and often results in alienation and produces introverts, which are negative factors for a society that seeks progress, impregnability, and steadfastness.

The statement added: Precious objectives, such as democracy, consultation, popular participation, and full respect for human rights, including freedom and security, are objectives that we are struggling to achieve in the Iraq of today and tomorrow, with all the power we have.

History, politics, and sociology tell us that these objectives can be achieved only through an organized movement belonging to the unofficial forces of the society, including parties, unions, professional associations, intellectuals, and individuals. Sometimes, these forces achieve their objectives when governments make concessions out of their awareness of the predominant spirit of the age; when they want to strengthen their legitimacy and the harmony with the regime; or when they want to avoid growing popular pressure to secure organized popular support in the face of domestic or foreign opponents. At other times, these objectives are taken by force from governments when these governments fail to realize the importance of translating these objectives into concrete reality or when they relish ruling singlehanded and resort to suppression and violence instead of dialogue and ballot boxes.

It is certain, however, that these objectives cannot be attained through foreign spears, tearing apart national unity, and humiliating citizens and denying them food and medicine and other necessary requirements. On the contrary, when such a situation continues, it could make people

fanatic and barbaric because of poverty, national humiliation, and revenge. We should remember in this context that the disgraceful Versailles Treaty was the major cause behind the Nazi disaster.

The essence of democracy lies in tolerance, accepting views of others, institutionalizing disputes, and having political and economic security, peace, and stability. This is exactly what the forces of colonialism and Zionism want to deny the Iraqi people. In other words, the actual policy of the United States is to abort democracy in Iraq. It is well known now that the West has played a big role in foiling the government-Kurdish agreement, without offering a clear alternative to the brothers in Iraqi Kurdistan—an agreement which could have opened broad horizons for democratic development in Iraq.

Regime's Effort To Revive 'Tribalism' Viewed

NC2009203092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Political commentary]

[Text] The largest ever campaign now is under way in Iraq to revive tribal values and bigotry. By conducting this campaign, the authorities are contradicting their previous slogans. Through these slogans they had called for abolishing tribal names and had imposed loyalty to the state rather than to the tribe or sect in an effort to dissolve the tribes and their role in social and political life.

The regime used to call itself modern and progressive and renounced tribes. It sought to humiliate tribal heads, undermine their authority, and expand the party's influence so that the tribes would not turn into dens of opposition confronting the regime.

The centering of authority in one tribe and clan and the regime's need to play the strings of tribalism and sectarianism and to exploit sensitivities and bigotry prompted the regime to revive tribalism. The regime did not seek to revive the tribes' roles to achieve cohesion, solidarity, and collective security, but to preserve the regime's interests by luring some tribal shaykhs and backing supporters of the regime.

Iraqi tribes and clans have had an effective role in Iraqi political life, which was apparent in the resistance against British occupation and in the 1920 revolution. Tribes in the central Euphrates area once were sources of anxiety for the ruling regime because they fought bloody battles with it.

Saddam's regime, however, revived the tribal issue by exploiting contradictions and bigotries and by swaying the weak and those who are anxious about their interests to subjugate them so they will be means of defending the regime after the authorities' organizations have collapsed and lost their ability to spread influence in the rural areas.

Saddam, who is seeking strength through support from some tribes, wants to tear Iraqi society apart and engulf it in the contradictions of a tribal society. He is not concerned about the Iraqi tribes' Islamic values, positive standards, or constructive traditions. He seeks instead to revive the negative aspect of the issue so that the tribes will stand against each other. Through the power balances game, the regime can preserve its interests and its survival.

We have seen how the regime has begun to focus in its media on the tribal heads' cables to Saddam and to ask the southern tribes to support the regime and defend it. The regime also has begun to alienate some of the tribes which support it from those tribes which are clinging to the people's interest and dignity and have not abandoned their interests for the regime. We also have seen how the regime's newspapers devote extensive space to news of Saddam's reception for tribal heads and members in an unsophisticated way out of the regime's belief that by doing so it can deceive the Iraqis. But the regime does not know that this method is far from its interests.

Opposition Views Regime's Bid To End 'Isolation'

NC2009071492 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the foreign minister of Saddam's regime, met Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meeting in Cairo last week. Al-Sahhaf requested the meeting. Saddam's regime is seeking to end its political isolation, especially as its scope has narrowed considerably and its relations with other countries are cool. The attempt to open a new chapter of relations with Egypt will remain one of Saddam's regime's foreign policy objectives, because Cairo can mediate between it and Gulf and Western countries. It also controls the Arab League.

Saddam's regime is appealing to the concept of pan-Arab security by asserting that Iraq's unity is being threatened and that the partition scheme will spread to other areas. By using this reasoning, it is seeking to raise Arab fears and arouse Arab sympathy to ease the diplomatic and political blockade imposed on it.

The Iraqi people are asking why the regime directs the most slanderous invective against countries with which it disagrees, even if they are allies. Have the Iraqis and Egyptians forgotten what Saddam used to say about Mubarak's rule and how he used to accuse him of hypocrisy and of implementing U.S. policy in the region? Our people have not forgotten and will not forget the accusations and insults that Saddam directs against all regimes and countries with which he differs. Saddam's regime is without shame and dignity; nothing prevents it from kissing and making up and backing down from insults to replace them with the diplomacy of kisses, Mercedes cars, and valuable gifts, as if nothing has happened and as if it has not burned all bridges. Perhaps this type of policy is the ugliest of all. When Saddam is angry with a certain country, he levels every possible charge against it. When his anger subsides or if his interests require, he quickly backs down from his accusations and forgets them. This is not foreign policy. It is a nervous disease; the decisionmaker in Iraq is governed by his whims and fancies, not the good of the people and country. That would require

civilized behavior. The first step of diplomacy is not to sever relations, level accusations, or burn bridges. Iraq has lost its dignity, prestige, and respect on the Arab, regional, and international scenes because it has no logical policy. Saddam's policy is based on his own personal interest. Iraq will not restore its dignity or its Arab and Islamic role unless it pursues a foreign policy that has clear objectives and principles that place the Iraqi people's interests above all else. This cannot be done except by removing the barbaric, terrorist clique that rules in Iraq.

Nation Suffering Economic, Security 'Strangulation'

NC1909115992 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] As a result of the continued authoritarian policies of the ruling regime in Iraq and its failure to come to terms with the new circumstances brought on by the uprising, the Iraqi people's lives are becoming increasingly difficult, and their hopes of leading a dignified life are diminishing. The authorities have failed to resolve the problems that are piling up day after day.

The people are feeling insecure about their lives, property, and homes. Thefts, both at day and night times, have gone beyond common limits. Gangs are roaming the streets, robbing houses, and intercepting passersby. Bribes, which were once a rare occurrence and limited in scope, have become commonplace and at the highest governmental levels. Bribery is practiced in the most sensitive departments. This only shows that the citizens feel insecure about their own lives.

The economic difficulties facing our people are on the rise and have gone beyond all expectations. The value of the dinar has plummeted, and as the state itself has admitted, the price of commodities has risen sharply. The regime's trade minister has recently stated that the price of commodities has increased by 30- to 40-fold. One kg of rice, for instance, costs nine dinars. The one-, two-, five-, 10- and 50-dinar bills have disappeared from circulation. The food market is highly turbulent. Foodstuffs either do not exist or are scarce, particularly in the southern Iraqi governorates where a no-fly zone has been declared.

In the past few days, rice and flour have disappeared from the markets of the southern cities. This followed the measures introduced by the 'Aflaqite regime after the imposition of the no-fly zone south of the 32d parallel. The authorities imposed a strict food and economic embargo on the region, including a ban on the transportation of food products between cities, confiscation of the existing products, and transfer of the food and grain warehouses into areas north of the 32d parallel. Add the security crisis to this economic strangulation, and we will notice that authorities are getting increasingly hungry for mass arrests. Hundreds of security checkpoints now exist along the line where the no-fly zone is declared, where men between 15 and 45 years old are detained. At the approaches to the marshlands, authorities are forcibly evicting families and transferring them to mass detention camps in western Iraq.

The economic and security strangulation are the two most prominent features in Iraq. The regime has suffered from a state of hysteria and imbalance in recent days. Perhaps it feels that its days are numbered, and that its end is nearing. Perhaps it also believes that the people have yet to settle their accounts with it. For this reason, it is allowing chaos to strike hard at Iraqi life to make it more miserable. As for the regime's cronies, they are safe from all the damage sustained by ordinary Iraqis. They hold the stick in their hands, have orders to oppress, are ready to commit crimes, and take pleasure in hurting our Iraqi people, and wiping smiles off their faces.

Saddam Sends Cable of Thanks to Mauritania

JN2009133692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of thanks to Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of fraternal Mauritania, for the cable of condolences his excellency received on the death of the late Thabit Nu'man al-'Ani, Iraq's ambassador to Mauritania.

The cable states:

Your excellency, dear brother Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, president of the fraternal Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

With great appreciation, we have received the cable of condolences you have sent on the death of late Ambassador Thabit Nu'man al-'Ani. We extend to you our sincerest thanks for your genuine condolences and noble brotherly feelings. We beseech God Almighty to grant your excellency good health and well-being, and to spare you and the fraternal Mauritanian Arab people all adversities. God's blessings and peace be upon you.

Al-Sahhaf Leaves for UN General Assembly Session

JN2209160992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, along with his delegation, left for New York today to attend the 47th session of the UN General Assembly.

The minister will deliver a speech spelling out Iraq's stand on current developments and the risks which the drift toward a unipolar world order carries for the world and developing nations, a Foreign Ministry source told INA. The foreign minister's address will also point to the implications of the policies of the coercive powers to the performance of the United Nations and its agencies. It will also note the selectivity and double standards in the application of the provisions of the UN Charter as a consequence of interference by the coercive powers in the formulation of UN Security Council resolutions.

The minister's speech, the source added, will also call attention to the belligerent practices directed against Iraq over the past two years under the cover of so-called international legitimacy. He will also underscore the Iraqi people's suffering over the past two years in the aftermath of the 30-stage aggression, the devastation it has wrought on the country's economic infrastructure, and the economic and human toll exacted by the ongoing embargo and the interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

At this session of the UN General Assembly, 40 heads of state and government will be discussing 150 items.

Trade Minister Returns From Tunis AESC Session

JN1909134692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1227 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih returned to Baghdad after a five-day visit to Tunisia. During the visit, he led the Iraqi delegation to the 51th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council [AESC], which concluded in Tunis last Thursday.

In a statement to INA, Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih said that during the session, the Arab trade ministers endorsed a general framework for economic reform in the Arab countries to achieve financial and economic stability, to free the economy from various restrictions, and to upgrade administrative efficiency in the public and private sectors and encourage the private sector.

He added that the recommendations approved by the AESC stress the importance of Arab economic integration through organizing transportation and the movement of people between countries and adopting the unified Arab specifications.

High-Level Officials Visit Governorates

Prime Minister in Maysan

JN1809175292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Sep

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has stated that by putting into practice the message that leader President Saddam Husayn addressed to the people and party organizations and the general public they are, in effect, articulating the solidarity of the people with their leadership as it tackles vicious conspiracies and the iniquitous embargo. The prime minister was speaking at a meeting with service and municipal administrators and [Arab Socialist Ba'th] Party leaders, as well as leaders of mass and professional organizations in Maysan Governorate. The conspiracies being plotted by our enemies to prejudice our national unity and sovereignty are such that we should deploy all our energies and resources and give preference to developmental projects. He added: We must rely on home grown alternatives and use whatever resources are available within the framework of an Iraqi program to provide the decisive answer to colonialist intentions to keep the unjust embargo in place.

The prime minister called for speeding up the implementation of the projects that can be executed with the Iraqi expertise that has proven itself in the reconstruction effort in the aftermath of the vicious 30-state aggression against striving Iraq. Meanwhile, al-Zubaydi was briefed by administrators on the progress made by their respective departments in some localities of the governorate. They emphasized that they were anxious to complete these projects before their target dates.

The prime minister had earlier met at the governorate premises with the acting governor of Maysan in the presence of comrade Muhammad Dahmam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, who gave a briefing on the services provided by the service sectors to the community. He commended the patriotic conduct of the Maysan Governorate population when they stood up to the conspiracies and plots targeting the unity, security, and independence of the Iraqi people.

Defense Minister in al-Ta'mim

JN1809182292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, has communicated greetings and best wishes from leader President Saddam Husayn to the tribes and population of al-Ta'mim Governorate. He was speaking to a rally grouping tribal chiefs, notables, and religious scholars and leaders of the governorate, in the presense of comrade Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husayn, member of the Iraq Command [of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party], who is responsible for the party orgnizations in the north. The great Iraqi people, he added, have demonstrated complete scorn for the dastardly colonialist-Zionist conspiracy, displayed their adherance to their national unity, and rallied around the unique leader President Saddam Husayn.

The defense minister emphasized that the people of Iraq are an indivisible whole. The colonialist-Zionist attempts to split the ranks of the Iraqi people will only serve to further cement their national unity and stiffen their resolve to pursue advancement and construction under the banner of God is great held by leader President Saddam Husayn, said al-Majid.

Meanwhile, the tribal chiefs, religious leaders and scholars shouted slogans and sang songs renewing their promise to the leader president to stand like a secure dam in the defense of the sovereignty and national unity of Iraq. They asserted that they were available to serve as conscientious soldiers for the leader and the people.

Interior Minister in Salah-al-Din

JN1809183392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan has stated that, with God's help and by rallying around their mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, proud Iraqis—including the children of the al-Qadisiyah [Iran-Iraq war] and the Mother of Battles [Gulf war]—are bound to foil the

colonialist-Zionist conspiracy being plotted by the United States, Britain, and France to compromise the unity of Iraq. Speaking to tribal chiefs, notables, and other citizens in Sharqat District in Salah-al-Din Governorate, the minister stated that Iraq will ride out all conspiracies. He impressed on them the need to exercise alertness so that they resolutely face the enemies and promote an ever proud Iraq. Iraq, he said, has proved to be a thorn in the eyes of warmongers who have been terrified by the grit of the Iraqi people, their unique leadership, and their performance in the areas of jihad and reconstruction. The meeting was attended by the secretary and members of the command of the Sharqat party branch and the district administrative officer.

Defense Minister Addresses Air Force Graduates

JN2209122192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Under the patronage of Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the Air Force and Air Defense College today held a celebration on the graduation of students of its ground and technical courses 52, 53, and 54.

Upon the arrival of leader President Saddam Husayn's representative, fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and defense minister, the national anthem was played.

Afterward, the celebration began with a Koranic recitation as well as reading the first chapter of the Koran for the souls of the martyrs of Iraq and the Arab nation, who are nobler than us all.

The staff pilot major general commander of the college then made a speech in which he praised the leader president's support and care for the college students.

Addressing the graduates, he said: You owe a debt to the leader and the homeland and you should repay it to enhance the combat capability of our Air Force through serious work. You should also translate the theoretical information you possess into concrete daily action in defense of Iraq's inviolability and national sovereignty.

Staff Major General al-Mallah, director of Air Administration and Supply, read a republican decree granting the graduates the rank of lieutenant.

The graduates then repeated the graduation oath. Afterward, the representative of leader President Saddam Husayn, Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister, gave token prizes to students who scored the highest grades.

The celebration was attended by Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah al-Rawi, chief of staff of the Army, as well as his aides, senior Armed Forces officers, and families of graduates. The celebration concluded with the playing of the national anthem.

Al-Qadisiyah Governorate Included in Amnesty

JN2009122892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] The Presidential Office has issued a statement, adding the al-Qadisiyah Governorate to the governorates mentioned in Paragraph A of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No. 232 of 4 September 1992.

The following is the text of the RCC decree:

1. A general and full amnesty is granted to defecting and misguided Iraqi military personnel who are residents of the Governorates of Dhi Qar, al-Basrah, and Maysan. They shall be exempted from any legal consequences or proceedings for any act punishable by law committed during their desertion if they surrender themselves to the state organs or the Armed Forces. These provisions exclude those who committed premeditated murder and rape.

2. The provisions outlined in Paragraph A of this decree apply to army deserters who surrender themselves during the period 23 August-24 September 1992.

3. The competent ministers and agencies shall implement this decree.

Decision on Lifting PLO Meeting Ban Postponed

TA2309104792 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Tova Tzimuqi]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday ordered the suspension of legislation abolishing the law banning meetings with the PLO. The issue was struck from the agenda of the Monday meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Legislation and Law Enforcement, and no explanation was offered to the participants.

Despite the fact that the Justice Ministry completed its work on the amendment and that Minister David Liba'i initiated it immediately upon entering office, Rabin decided to suspend the legislative procedures because of the political repercussions such a move would have on the peace negotiations, particularly those with the Palestinians. Rabin wants the matter to be discussed first by the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs and only later by the Ministerial Committee on Legislation.

Rabin recently told his associates that such legislation at this point might be interpreted as Israeli recognition of the PLO and of its being a party to the political negotiations. He fears that such an amendment might invite international pressure on Israel to negotiate directly with the PLO.

The legislative procedures had been at an advanced stage. The Justice Ministry had completed drafting the amendment and had already submitted it to other ministries. The Ministerial Committee on Legislation had been scheduled to approve the amendment this week, so as to submit it to the Knesset for its first reading immediately upon the opening of the winter session at the end of October.

It should be pointed out that the coalition agreement between Meretz and Labor states that if within six months from the day the government was established the government does not submit a bill permitting meetings with the PLO, Meretz may do so itself. Various Knesset members, Labor doves, and members of other left-wing factions have submitted private bills on the issue to the Knesset.

Rabin Sees Need To Raise Level of Peace Talks

TA2209124692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin does not rule out the possibility of establishing a confederation between Israel and the Palestinians rather than one between the Palestinians and Jordan, on condition that Israel's security and its settlement rights within this confederation are safeguarded. Referring to the Syrians, Rabin said the territorial issue and the question of Israel leasing territory on the Golan Heights have not been raised in the talks. Rabin was speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and our correspondent Ge'ula Even reports:

[Begin recording] [Even] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin emphasized that no territorial issue whatsoever has been discussed in the peace talks with the Syrians. If somebody did so, Rabin said, he did so without any authority. He added that the question of leasing territory on the Golan Heights had also not been raised. Were we to utter that word, we would be denoting Israel's recognition of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights, he said.

Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin butted in, asking the prime minister: If you see no substantial difference between 17 and 32 settlements on the Golan Heights, how should the Syrians see it? Rabin replied that he was not the one who leaked the contents of a talk on the issue with leaders of the Golan settlements. Rabin recounted that in the talk, a settler told him that the settlements are worthless in times of war, to which he replied that the importance of the topography remains the same whether it applies to 32 or to 17 settlements.

Rabin told the committee members that in his opinion it will be hard to make big decisions at the present level of the negotiations with the Arabs. Later on in the peace process, the prime minister said, we will have to talk to the Arabs at other levels.

The prime minister concluded the debate by stating that no significant breakthrough had been made either in the talks with the Syrians or with the Palestinians. I consider the interim period and an interim agreement with the Palestinians very important, he stressed, but I do not rule out the possibility of merging with them in a way that will safeguard Israel's security and settlement rights in some kind of confederation or federation between us and the Palestinians, rather than between the latter and Jordan.

Tzomet MK Moshe Peled asked the prime minister whether he could confirm reports that he and Peres had agreed to repeal Israel's sovereignty over the Golan and proposed to Rabin to establish new settlements on the Golan Heights, in places not adjacent to Israeli Army training areas. Rabin replied that he had not made any such agreement with the foreign minister and that the question of establishing settlements on the Golan Heights requires a government decision. In principle, however, we will not establish new settlements in order to raise morale, he pointed out.

MK Yosef 'Azran of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] asked Rabin whether he believes Syria might launch a war against Israel on its own. Rabin replied that in view of the collapse of the Soviet superpower and the curtailment of Saddam Husayn's strength, the chances of such an eventuality have decreased. Nevertheless, the prime minister stressed, the Arab world is currently engaged in a hectic race to buy surface-to-surface missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

[Rabin] The arms race has not stopped in the wake of the peace talks. At the same time, within the framework of the multilateral negotiations, there is a committee discussing ways to curb the arms race. My own assessment is that as long as peace has not been attained, at least with those with whom peace will be made, the arms race will continue. In contacts with the United States and the European countries, we have been trying to persuade them to slow down their role in the arms race. [end recording]

The prime minister toured northern Israel this afternoon. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports:

[Semrik] Accompanied by Israel's top industrialists, the prime minister inaugurated the Phoenicia glass factory in the new industrial zone in Upper Nazareth. This is a most important step on the way to creating productive jobs in border areas, he said. As to encouraging entrepreneurs to invest in the Golan Heights, Rabin said he is not holding up development anywhere in the State of Israel. There has been no change in the government's policy on the issue, he said.

The prime minister and defense minister spoke about the incident in Shu'fat this morning in which a border policeman was killed. This is yet another vile murder by terror elements, Rabin said. We will continue to fight terror with all our might, he said, but at the same time, we will do everything in our power to attain peace with all the Arab countries and with the Palestinians in the territories.

Peres Denies Reports of Meeting With al-Shar'

TA2209175492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today that no meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' is expected. At the same time, the foreign minister said that there is a need to hold face-to-face meetings, talk logically, and try to bring peace. He noted that meetings with all foreign ministers are desirable, with no reservations, no excuses, and without hiding.

Minister Peres made the remarks before meeting Lawrence Eagleburger, acting U.S. Secretary of State. Our correspondent Arye Golan adds that before the meeting, Eagleburger said that he is not trying to arrange any meeting between the Israeli and the Syrian foreign ministers.

Minister Peres also said that he is pleased with the role the United States is playing in the peace talks. It allows the negotiations to be held and encourages the parties to make progress, he said.

Says 'High Time' To Meet Syrians

TA2309065492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Arye Golan in New York on 22 September—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, are you interested in meeting Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'? Do you think that such a meeting could promote progress in the peace talks?

[Peres] This is not a personal matter. I think it is high time for Syrian leaders, at all levels, to meet Israeli leaders publicly, at all levels. I cannot justify all the mystery, games of hide and seek, and shirking of such meetings.

[Golan] Did you ask Lawrence Eagleburger to deliver any message on this matter to Faruq al-Shar' when he meets him soon?

[Peres] Israel has but one message which we constantly deliver through all channels. Our message is that we are serious about peace. This issue for us is no trick or maneuver. We want to attain peace before the skies of the Middle East bristle with all sorts of weapons that threaten every country.

[Golan] Are the Americans trying to organize a summit meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and President al-Asad?

[Peres] I do not know about that.

[Golan] Do you believe there is a chance of such a meeting taking place in the near future?

[Peres] As for its chances, I cannot say; I know that such a meeting is necessary, however, and I would support such a meeting with all my heart. I think that if there is anything to be learned from our experience with Egypt, it is not only what Egypt got but also what Egypt gave—in the way it conducted the negotiations. Egypt, or rather the late Egyptian President al-Sadat, shattered a tremendous psychological barrier by coming to Jerusalem. Today, we need such an action.

[Golan] Is al-Asad capable of emulating al-Sadat?

[Peres] I do not know him, nor do I give out grades. I do not know whether he is capable or not, but if he would take such a step I have absolutely no doubt that it would contribute to the peace process.

[Golan] If al-Asad declares that he is ready to offer us full peace, would we be willing to cede all of the Golan Heights?

[Peres] Are you negotiating with me? In the talks with the Syrian delegation, Israel said that there are three issues: peace, security, and also borders. We are ready to discuss everything. I will not say one word more. That would not be logical. The Israeli Government is conducting negotiations according to a certain logic. It is inconceivable that we negotiate in Washington and then hold interviews in which we are alternately generous or tough depending on our mood.

Lebanese Delegation Confirms Ron Arad Alive

TA2209172392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Here is a report just in: The Lebanese delegation to the peace talks in Washington has confirmed that Israeli navigator Ron Arad is still alive. Our correspondent Eldad Beck is on the phone from Washington:

[Beck] A few minutes ago, the Lebanese for the first time confirmed reports published in New York over the last 24 hours that they had relayed information to the Israeli delegation indicating that Ron Arad is still alive. At the moment the Lebanese do not have any additional information about the identity of Ron Arad's captors or his whereabouts, but they promised to continue looking into the matter and return to the Israelis with more specific information. They also will try to find out details about the fate

of the other Israeli MIA's and POW's. I suggest that we listen to the remarks of Israeli delegate Uri Lubrani, upon emerging from the meeting with the Lebanese delegation today.

[Begin Lubrani recording] The Lebanese Government has issued a statement, relayed to us through the delegation, that it has looked into and has information to relay to us; namely, that, to the best of its knowledge, Ron Arad is still alive. [end recording]

[Beck] These were the remarks of Uri Lubrani, who further confirmed the reports that Ron Arad definitely is alive. Lubrani added that this will encourage the efforts to search for and find Ron Arad, as well as the other MIA's and POW's.

EC To Help Nation's Integration Into Europe

TA2209154492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Sep 92 p A3

["Exclusive" report by Shlomo Shamir]

[Text] New York—The EC will launch talks with Israel in a bid to amend their bilateral treaties. This was announced yesterday at the end of a meeting of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres with the EC's 12 foreign ministers in New York.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and the EC's Abel Matutes told Peres that the EC had decided to accelerate the process of integrating Israel into the European economic zone. Peres was invited to Brussels to another meeting with the 12 and to another session with Jacques Delors at the beginning of October. The EC decision means that the specifics of Israel's integration have been revised and given a new and special definition. Hurd pointed out that the decision was made in view of the progress in the peace process. Israel has long wanted to discuss these issues, but to date its request had been put off.

Peres briefed the EC foreign ministers on the peace process and, at Hurd's request, he elaborated on the state of the talks with the Palestinians. Peres said that a feeling of crisis had prevailed last week but noted that toward the weekend the atmosphere had become more businesslike. He added that this time Israel will not let the Palestinians shun an agreement.

Israel wants to pursue the negotiations without any breaks and would like the deliberations to be held by working teams to enable more efficient discussions. Peres said that as far as the Syrians are concerned, Israel demands clarifications about their perception of the contents of peace before it proceeds to discuss in depth the remaining components of the negotiations. Asked about Resolution 242, Peres said that Israel accepts the British version of it. Peres congratulated the EC on the results of the referendum in France and asked the European foreign ministers to facilitate Israel's integration to enable it to be accepted into UN institutions. He also asked them to help reverse the trend of automatic anti-Israeli resolutions in the United Nations.

In another meeting, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko informed Peres that Ukraine's first ambassador to Israel will arrive in October. Zlenko said that the assignment is considered very important, which is why the ambassador-designate will hold the rank of minister. Peres conferred yesterday with the foreign ministers of Finland, Argentina, and Luxembourg. He will meet today with Acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

New Divisions in Prime Minister's Office Detailed

TA2209133092 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Sep 92 p 5

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] Four new divisions have been set up in the Prime Minister's Office, under the supervision of Director General Shim'on Sheves.

The political division headed by Colonel (reserves) Jacques Neriyah, who is also a member of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, will, among other things, deal with the peace talks and handle matters pertaining to the Israeli negotiating teams.

It is estimated that establishing a political division at the Prime Minister's Office will undermine the authority of Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who also chairs the Israeli delegation to the peace talks. Although Rubinstein is formally the chairman of the whole Israeli delegation, not only of the team negotiating with the Palestinians, his authority will probably be limited to issues pertaining to the Palestinian track, after the political division is set up.

The other divisions set up in the office include; a research division, headed by Dr. Hayim Asa, a follow up and control division, headed by Brigadier General (reserves) Shuki Zakay, the former head of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Manpower Branch, and a public Ombudsman, headed by attorney Nira Poran. Beni Shilo was appointed coordinator of a committee of director generals for Arab affairs. Shilo is the United Kibbutz Movement's most prominent "Arab expert."

The new operational framework at the Prime Minister's Office was already decided upon during consultations held by Yitzhaq Rabin's inner circle during the election campaign. The new framework was adapted to the prime minister's nature and to his work methods.

Over the past few days, special bureaus have been allocated in the office for the members of the Israeli delegations to the peace talks. Yesterday Gad Ben-Ari, the prime minister's media adviser, said that the negotiating teams are an integral part of the Prime Minister's Office, and establishing the new division finalizes this matter in a formal and organizational sense.

The research division, directed by Dr. Asa, will address matters of national security. This division will seek to implement the national order of priorities stressed by Rabin during, and after the election campaign.

The follow up and control division is designed to monitor the implementation of cabinet decisions.

Arab Knesset Member on Peace Talks, Jerusalem

NC2209091492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0510 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, Israeli Knesset member and Arab Democratic Party chairman, in Nazareth, by Ramadan Husayn within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Husayn] Good morning, Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab. Welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Darawshah] Good morning to you. Thanks and greetings to all our people who are listening to Voice of the Arabs radio from Cairo.

[Husayn] Now that the sixth round of Arab-Israeli talks has started, how do you see the general atmosphere in this round?

[Darawshah] From what we see inside Israel and in the region, we could say that we have more positive expectations at the start of this round. We know the negotiations will meet great difficulties because the gap between the Arab and Israeli views remains wide.

[Husayn] You mentioned a gap. Perhaps one of the problems impeding the negotiations, or one of the topics of negotiation and debate, is the issue of the council to be elected in the territories. The Israelis want the council to have only administrative powers, while the Palestinians insist that it be given legislative, executive, and judicial powers. In your view, to what extent can this obstacle be surmounted?

[Darawshah] The Palestinian stand, which the Arabs back, is a sincere one, which we Palestinians inside Israel adopt and support. It demands that a legislative council be elected with powers to enact laws and lay down foundations and rules for a true authority. As we know, the Israeli Government has a different opinion. It wants an administrative council with limited powers. In recent days, we have heard about proposals to reach a compromise—to call the council the Palestinian council, not the administrative or legislative council, with broader powers to enact rules and lay down systems that could allow for ruling and running the affairs in the occupied territories during autonomy. I believe that a compromise more favorable to the Palestinian stand is possible, because expanding the council, increasing its members, and giving it legislative powers are fundamental demands that will enable the Palestinian delegation to achieve more gains on the Palestinian right to self-determination and their own independent Palestinian state.

[Husayn] We now turn to Jerusalem. Before the talks went into recess to let the delegations consult with their governments, the Israeli delegation refused to discuss Jerusalem. What is your viewpoint, as Palestinians?

[Darawshah] East Jerusalem is part of the occupied West Bank and is part of the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories. No peace can be achieved unless the Jerusalem question is raised at the negotiating table. There is an intransigent and hardline Israeli stand on Jerusalem. Israel says that a unified Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital and is not negotiable. This stand is rejected at the international and Arab levels and also by ourselves, the Palestinians in Israel. Leftist parties inside Israel also reject it, saying that Jerusalem must be negotiated. We do not believe Jerusalem needs to be raised at the beginning of the talks or at this stage. The Jerusalem question could be postponed until a later stage, when there are tangible steps in the peace process and when confidence is created, enabling the various parties to examine the issue of Jerusalem with more flexibility, reason, and willingness to give concessions, particularly the Israeli side, which is intransigent and hardline. I believe that once genuine measures inspiring confidence in the parties and promoting the peace process have been taken, the issue of Jerusalem can be placed on the negotiating table. But no Arab or Palestinian could accept the notion that a unified Israel is the eternal capital of Israel. We say that Arab East Jerusalem is the capital of the future Palestinian state and is an indivisible part of the Arab and Palestinian territories. The Arabs, Palestinians, Muslims, and Christians have the same full rights in Arab Jerusalem as the Israelis have claims over West Jerusalem. This is the view that all the Palestinians inside Israel, and I believe everywhere else, agree upon. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] What is the stand of the Arabs inside Israel on the peace talks?

[Darawshah] First, we are an integral part of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation and are Israeli citizens. We want a just and comprehensive peace that could secure an end to the occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel. We truly want an end to the Israeli occupation on all fronts. This is our stand, which we continue to declare frankly from the Knesset forum, before the Israeli officials, and before the Israeli public. Our political position has improved since the recent elections. Rabin's government depends on the support of the Arab Knesset members. Without it, Yitzhaq Rabin would be unable to [word indistinct] his government or to remain in a coalition government headed by the Labor Party.

[Husayn] Mr. Darawshah, chairman of the Arab Democratic Party and Knesset member, we thank you at the end of this dialogue.

[Darawshah] Thank you, brother, and greetings to everyone.

Meretz Ministers Demand Role in Peace Process

TA2009174192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] The Meretz faction's cabinet ministers met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the ministers demanded that representatives from their faction be

appointed to the negotiating teams in Washington. The Meretz ministers also sought greater involvement in the political negotiations. The prime minister replied that he is concerned about possible leaks from the talks and therefore has no intention of expanding the circle of people conversant with the details of the discussions.

The Meretz ministers also demanded that a fourth minister from their faction be included in the cabinet. Mr. Rabin told them that the matter would be discussed during the second half of next month.

On another matter, the prime minister rejected the ministers' demand that public transportation start operating Saturday evenings at the same scope it operated at two years ago.

Dotan Affair Team To Object to U.S. Interrogation

TA1809132492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Sep 92 p A3

[Report by Aluf Ben and Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] Heading a legal team, State Attorney Dorit Beinish last night left for Washington for talks at the Justice Department and the Pentagon with administration officials connected with the probe into the Rami Dotan affair. The delegation includes the legal advisers of the Defense and Foreign Ministries.

During its one-week stay in the United States, the team will bring up the Israeli proposals designed to resolve the crisis which has evolved recently against the backdrop of the U.S. demand to interrogate Dotan and other Israelis, mainly Attorney Harold Katz, who managed Dotan's finances and had been involved in the Pollard affair as well.

Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, objects to allowing the Americans to interrogate Dotan, a former head of the Air Force procurement department. In the past, senior defense establishment officials dealing with the affair recommended against complying with the U.S. demand to interrogate Israeli officials.

Israel's opening stand in the discussions, which is based on the penal code, will apparently be the stand it had presented to the U.S. Administration in the past, namely that Israel objects to allowing past and present public servants to be interrogated by foreign investigators. [passage omitted]

Likud's Qatzav Comments on Relations With PRC

TA2009093492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] The CPC leaders are interested in contacts with the Likud movement. This was stated by Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Qatzav upon his return from a visit to the PRC as a guest of the Chinese Tourism Ministry [as heard]. The Chinese Parliament leaders said they were initiating an exchange of delegations with Israel's Knesset. MK Qatzav told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that during his visit to the PRC he emphasized the criticism in Israel of the PRC's decision to sell a nuclear reactor to Iran, while Israel had canceled the plan to sell Kfir planes to Taiwan.

IDF Considering 1993 West Bank Deployment Cut

TA1809135392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Sep 92 p A1

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Deliberations are being held in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] on the need to reduce significantly the number of troops stationed in the territories—mainly the West Bank—in view of the sharp decline in the level of violence.

Top IDF echelons have instructed the Central Command to examine the possibility of thinning out the deployment in the West Bank. In the spirit of the instructions, the IDF may reduce the volume of the troops in the territories at the beginning of 1993.

IDF sources note that a definite drop has been recorded in the number of disturbances and the throwing of stones and firebombs. The phenomenon of mass demonstrations has almost vanished. It is believed that while terrorist groups and various squads still exist in the territories, the overall situation resembles that which prevailed prior to the intifadah.

It is believed in the IDF that the calm and the absence of clashes between the population and the IDF stem from the political process.

"The population has maintained a relative quiet over the past months. There have been no riots, no clashes, and life in the territories has become more normal," General Staff elements said.

The elements noted that in the West Bank, for instance, coffee shops, clubs, and other entertainment places have begun operating and are filled with people. None of this has existed since the beginning of the intifadah.

According to the sources, the residents' compliance with calls of rejectionist organizations—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and other bodies—to launch strikes and not to work in Israel is gradually waning. It is further believed in the IDF that as the peace process continues, the situation in the territories will be calmer, although isolated terrorist squads will continue operating.

The IDF does not rule out the possibility that the intifadah in its present form will go on for many years; it is believed, however, that to cope with such a scope of activity, there is no need to maintain all the forces currently stationed in the territories.

A slash in the number of brigades deployed in the territories will reduce the number of commands, personnel, and reserve duty days, and allow more funds to be earmarked for training.

Senior IDF elements contend that normalization in the West Bank is sufficiently established and that the return of the days of mass demonstrations is unlikely.

A decline in the volume of disturbances and demonstrations has been recorded in the Gaza Strip as well, but it should be remembered that there are far fewer troops in the Strip than in the West Bank. According to General Staff sources, the possibility of reducing deployment in the Gaza Strip will also be examined during the 1993 work year.

Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, recently said that although the use of firearms by hardcore squads has risen, there has been a drop in the number of fugitives and new recruits in the existing squads. At present, four principal terrorist squads operate in the West Bank and three or four in the Gaza Strip.

It should be noted that the number of residents of the territories working in Israel has risen in past months. Almost 60,000 residents actually work there, but over 80,000 hold permits to go out to work in Israel.

'First' Industrial Agreement With India Signed

TA2009120192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] The first industrial cooperation agreement was signed between India and Israel today. Our correspondent reports that a permanent body will be set up to exchange information between the industrialists' associations to allow the expansion of trade and technological cooperation between the two countries. Last year, Israel's exports to India totaled some $80 million, including mainly polished diamonds and chemical products.

Hamas, Fatah Responsible for Gaza Crimes

TA2009054892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] The security forces are continuing the manhunt for a terrorist squad that kidnapped and attacked soldier Alon Qaravani in the Gaza Strip. A Bedouin youth found Qaravani in a puddle of blood, tied to a tree, wearing only his underpants. Qaravani asked for help, and the Bedouin youth rushed to the main road to call for assistance. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that two terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip, Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], assumed responsibility for the terrorist act. The terrorists, three apparently, used a white Peugeot with an Israeli license plate.

The debriefing conducted during the weekend indicates that Alon Qaravani acted according to regulations and sat in the back seat of the car. Qaravani thought the terrorists were Israelis because they wore skullcaps and beards. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that they threatened the soldier with a pistol pointed at his forehead and forced him to take off his uniform. He tried to jump out of the car but was unsuccessful, and the terrorists stabbed him with a sharp object and beat him.

King's Invitation to Iraqi Opposition Denied

PM2209162592 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Sep 92 pp1, 2

[Salamah Ni'mat report: "Amman Prepares To Receive King Husayn; Joint U.S.-Jordanian Exercises for the First Time in Three Years"]

[Excerpts] Amman—Official Jordanian sources yesterday confirmed that joint U.S.-Jordanian military exercises were carried out last week for the first time in three years—an indication of improvement in relations between the two countries after the tension which followed the second Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, political circles expect the Jordanian capital to witness large-scale political activity on all fronts in the coming weeks after King Husayn returns to Amman next Thursday. They say that the Jordanian monarch "will most probably make some crucial political decisions and carry out major changes when he returns after his long absence abroad." As we know, the king left Amman for treatment five weeks ago—the longest period he has spent abroad.

Last week King Husayn met in London with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. He also visited the Imam al-Kho'i Foundation to express his condolences on the Shiite imam's death in Iraq last month.

Official sources have told AL-HAYAH that King Husayn's meeting with Talabani focused on Jordan's eagerness to preserve Iraq's unity and territorial integrity. They denied the claims about his inviting the Iraqi opposition to hold a conference in Jordan. Observers saw the meeting as a Jordanian initiative to keep the channels open with the symbols of the Iraqi opposition.

Iraq had turned down a Jordanian official request to allow King Husayn's representative to visit Iraq to convey condolences on Iman al-Kho'i's death. [passage omitted]

The sources said that the Jordanian king is likely to take steps to improve relations with Egypt, boost the Middle East peace process, and rearrange the domestic situation to be in harmony with the new approach. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Seen Distancing Himself From Saddam

PM2209161192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Sep 92 p 17

[Bakr 'Uwaydah article: "King Husayn Speeds Up His Parting from 'Saddam's Iraq'"]

[Text] The most likely and plausible possibility is that Jordanian King Husayn's meeting with Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], did not take place in isolation from what is happening and what is expected to happen in Iraq.

It is also true that last Monday's meeting in London was not the first meeting King Husayn had held—since the "mother of all catastrophes"—with a leading member of the opposition trying to rescue Iraq and the Iraqis from Saddam Husayn's regime.

Another fact is that the continuation of Saddam Husayn's regime is no longer just a burden on Iraq. It is a burden on the entire region and especially on those who supported him, regardless of the degree of that support and regardless of the "causes" and "circumstances" of it, which—according to some, including Jordan—were "misunderstood."

Because King Husayn carefully studies every step before taking it, his position regarding the calamity of Saddam's invasion of Kuwait was questioned by many, and it may be some time before the real answer is known. Furthermore, because his steps are carefully calculated, his recent meeting with Talabani cannot be seen as a routine matter of protocol. Considering also that he tried to send his son to attend the funeral of Ayatollah Abu-al-Qasim al-Kho'i, the highest Shiite authority, and considering what American writer Jim Hogland quoted him as saying several days ago (Thursday 10 September), one can say that the Jordanian monarch is speeding up his parting from "Saddam Husayn's Iraq" and getting closer to "the post-Saddam Iraq."

These steps away and steps closer are more than necessary for the future of the Jordanian monarchy and the future of Jordan itself as a "political entity" (will it remain a Jordanian entity, will it become a Jordanian-Palestinian entity, will there be a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli confederation?) and many other such questions.

It has been said that politics is "the art of the possible." Some see it as the art of opportunism, not in the traditional sense but as a politician's way of leaving more than one door open to him. It is clear that King Husayn wants his regime and Jordan, of course, to be open to more than one option in the region.

In the light of the claims made by some, especially in Jordan, after the dust of the "mother of all catastrophes" had settled, namely that the Palestinians were responsible for the Jordanian attitude, would the PLO not be in a better position now, as far its Arab and international relations, its negotiating position with Israel, and the condition of the Palestinians at home and abroad are concerned if it had not shut itself in Saddam's shell?

Public Trial of Deputies Slated for 29 Sep

JN2309084892 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Sep 92 pp 1, 16

[By Nayif al-Ma'ani and Fu'ad Husayn]

[Text] Amman—Lieutenant Colonel Yusuf al-Fa'uri, president of the State Security Court, yesterday handed Ibrahim Bakr, House of Representatives Member Layth Shubaylat's lawyer, and Jamal al-Dumur, House of Representatives Member Ya'qub Qirrish's lawyer, the indictments against their clients and a copy of the file of investigation on the Islamic Mobilization Youth Organization.

The indictments contain the following charges:

1. Being a member of an illegal society (the Islamic Mobilization Youth Organization) whose objective is to cancel the kingdom's constitution and topple the system of government through revolution and sabotage and to assume leading positions in attaining these objectives.

2. Encouraging others through speeches and writings to cancel the Kingdom's constitution and topple the system of government through revolution and sabotage.

3. Carrying out actions that disturb the Kingdom's relations with Iraq.

4. Possessing unlicensed explosives for illegal use.

5. Possessing unlicensed automatic weapons for illegal use.

6. Slandering parliament members, this applies only to deputy Shubaylat.

7. Undertaking writings that harm the exalted office.

Lawyers Bakr and al-Dumur were given one week to study the indictments and the file of investigation before the court begins its public sessions at the State Secrity Court in Marka on Tuesday, 29 September. The two lawyers were also informed that they can contact their clients separately as of today.

Defendants Ahmad Ramzi al-Ayyubi and 'Abd-al-Hamid Sadiq Isma'il Kaydak will also stand trial before the court in the same case.

The court sessions will be chaired by Lt. Col. Yusuf al-Fa'uri, president of the State Security Court, and Judges Major Subhi al-Musa and Maj. 'Arif al-Suyuf as members. The public prosecution will be represented by military public prosecutor Maj. Muhammad Hijazi.

Immediate Arab Withdrawal From Peace Talks Urged

JN2209120792 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Sep 92 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Why Not Withdraw From This Game?"]

[Text] The Americans observe silence toward this Zionist scorn of international legitimacy. Had it not been for a remaining trace of desire to fool us as a nation, the Americans would not have been embarrassed to applaud this Zionist arrogance. The Zionists ask the Syrians for a comprehensive peace without any withdrawal from the occupied Syrian territories and announce their wish for such a peace without speaking about international legitimacy or its principles. The Israeli behavior during the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, particularly after Rabin assumed power, has clearly confirmed to us that there is a joint Israel-U.S. desire to humiliate us, that this has nothing to do with who assumes power either in the United States or in the Israeli entity, and that if Shamir approached international legitimacy with arrogance, Rabin is tackling it with scorn, coupled with his flouting of the Arabs and their rights.

Rabin's statements at the Israeli Knesset do not deserve any reply whatsoever either by the Arab delegations in Washington or by the Arab governments. The only practical reply they require is the immediate withdrawal from these negotiations as they have now become a source of humiliation to us all and need to be terminated. This will have many gains, the most prominent being the exposure of the false U.S. stand and portraying it as it really is, and the emphasis that will be placed on the fact that this Mogul war against the Iraqi people has nothing to do with either international legitimacy, its principles, or its resolutions. If the Arab parties terminate this odious game the Israeli entity and the United States are playing with our fateful causes, they would also wipe out President Bush's dreams, something which will not scare us because a president who continues to slaughter an Arab people and who does not adopt a decisive stand on the Zionist aggression against international legitimacy in Palestine, the Golan Heights, and Southern Lebanon does not deserve to be reelected. He should pay the price for all the falsehoods which he dumped over our heads when speaking about this legitimacy and trying to convince us that the United States does not resort to double standards in its idealing with Arab, Islamic, and humanitarian causes in our region and in many parts of the world.

The Arabs' withdrawal from the Washington negotiations will not harm a single Arab and does not represent a defiance of international legitimacy by us. This legitimacy has been transformed in accordance with the American and Israeli yardsticks and stands into a constant premeditated operation to humilate us all. If this withdrawal does not take place, the current peace game will also result in an insistence on our side to serve our enemies, particularly in the extermination war that they are waging against the Iraqi people under the banner of this legitimacy and in the name of this humiliating search for a peace that will bring with it humiliation and destruction.

Communications Talks With Syria Begin 22 Sep

JN2209133392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Jordanian-Syrian talks on communications began in Amman today. The Jordanian side was headed by Jamal al-Sarayirah, minister of communications and posts; and Engineer Muhammad Radwan Martini, the Syrian minister of communications. During their talks, the officials signed an agreement establishing a regional communications network project between the two countries. [passage omitted]

'Goodwill' Gesture of News on Israeli Captive

NC2309055692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Excerpts] There is no progress in the Arab-Israeli negotiations; Israel is trying to impose new conditions on the Lebanese and Syrian teams following the imposition of conditions on the Jordanians and Palestinians.

The interesting point in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations was the goodwill shown by the Lebanese team, involving information that Israeli pilot Ron Arad is alive.

Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral negotiations, announced this following the round of talks held yesterday. Shammas said the Lebanese told the Israelis that Ron Arab could still be alive. Answering correspondents' questions, Shammas said only: Yes, I can confirm this.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is attending the UN General Assembly session in New York, told the press this news. [passage omitted]

An Israeli source has said that the Lebanese authorities do not know where Ron Arad is being held, adding that pro-Iranian fighters east of the country could be guarding him.

Lebanese Army Deploys in Former PKK Camp

NC2209162692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Citing a military source, AFP reports that the Lebanese Army today took control of a training camp for the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK], which was evacuated last May. According to the source, 70 Lebanese Army soldiers and three armored vehicles took up positions in the al-Hulwah camp, situated 2 km from Lebanese-Syrian borders. There were no fighters or weapons in the camp when the Army personnel entered, and the deployment went on smoothly. According to a security source in the area, the fighters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by Nayif Hawatimah, who had occupied the camp since the Kurdish rebels pulled out, withdrew from the camp at dawn today.

The deployment of the Lebanese Army in al-Hulwah camp comes after the signing last Friday [18 September] of an agreement between Damascus and Ankara concerning security and the sharing of the Euphrates water. The contents of the agreement have not been made public.

Iranian Charge Comments After Meeting al-Sulh

NC2309073692 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh today received Iranian Charge d'Affaires Homayun 'Alizadeh. Afterward, the Iranian charge said they discussed topical issues in Lebanon, in light of the recent parliamentarian elections, and reviewed regional and Gulf issues. 'Alizadeh said they also discussed certain artificial crises that global arrogance is fomenting in the region to divert international, Islamic, and Arab attention from the Zionist occupation of Arab land.

'Alizadeh said: We suspect the policies of arrogance in the region and believe that these policies conflict with the hopes of the region's people. 'Alizadeh added: His excellency the prime minister expressed sound views on these issues, which we will convey to officials in the Islamic Republic.

Birri on Chamber of Deputies, Other Issues

NC2109123192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Minister Nabih Birri news conference with unidentified reporters after his meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Beirut on 21 September—recorded]

[Text] [Birri] Following my visit to Damascus and meeting with the officials there, led by his excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, courtesy demanded that I call on his excellency the president of the Republic to brief him on the results of my talks and to discuss the possibility of reconciliation and agreement among the Lebanese, particularly in the coming stage—the stage after 15 October and the by-elections in Kasrawan.

[Reporter] Is it possible to say that you are a candidate in the election to the post of speaker of the Chamber of Deputies?

[Birri] There is no complete Chamber of Deputies yet to state whether or not I am a candidate.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, will the opposition be included in the next government?

[Birri] I do not know what you mean by the opposition. I will clarify this matter again. What is needed is to unite all the Lebanese, whether through the government or other frameworks. There is a government and an opposition in all countries of the world, but there is constructive and fruitful cooperation for the benefit of the country. Yes, I support this view and continue to adhere to the statement I made at the news conference I held after the elections in the al-Janub [south] province. The next government could be part of the process to unite the ranks. I am not referring to the opposition that does not recognize al-Ta'if agreement, the elections, or anything else. I am referring to constructive opposition. Some statements and interviews indicate that some people do not know that Lebanon has emerged from under the ashes. We do not mean these. We mean the constructive people and not the saboteurs.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, do you expect the contest for the post of Chamber speaker to be heated, or will there be an unopposed candidate?

[Birri] The current stage demands agreement. I hope there will be no problem.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the resistance weapons?

[Birri] First, this is not the business of the United States. The business of the United States, if it wants to help, is to implement UN Resolution 425. But the resistance weapons are a legitimate and sacred right. This matter is decided, and no one should contest it.

[Reporter] General Michel 'Awn addressed a question to you. He asked what your position is on the resettlement of the Palestinians and what will the fate of the south be. What is your answer?

[Birri] Who addressed the question to me?

[Reporter] Gen. Michel 'Awn in a television interview.

[Birri] I am resisting the resettlement by supporting Lebanon's unity and the national Lebanese Army to deploy in the south to implement Resolution 425. Our position on resettlement is clear. Resettlement is a plot against us and the Palestinian people. I want to ask him: What is he doing? By not supporting reconciliation, he supports resettlement and the continuation of the occupation.

Sa'adah Decries Measures Against Phalangists

NC2209183092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1745 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Statement by Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah on 22 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Following the Phalangist Party Political Bureau's invitation to Phalangists and freedom-supporting citizens to gather at 1800 today at the home of Political Bureau Member Butrus Khawand—kidnapped a week ago—to denounce the kidnapping, popular delegations flowed in from everywhere. However, the masses were surprised to find the area surrounded by the military, which stopped citizens' cars and deliberately searched them thoroughly to delay their arrival at the gathering point. Deputies' cars were not spared from the search. Furthermore, the military did not hesitate to seize the licensed light firearms carried by the aides of certain party leaders.

I tried in vain to convince security officials supervising the siege to go back on their decision to prevent the previously mentioned peaceful gathering and to stop their provocation.

While certain high-ranking security officials were promising me a halt to this type of defiance, orders to keep it up were given through radio communications which were heard by all those present, including myself.

Therefore, I must point out the following to public opinion:

1. Searching deputies' cars constitutes a clear infringement of parliamentary immunity;

2. Confiscating licensed weapons is a violation of the rights granted citizens by the state;

3. Preventing the people who flowed in to Butrus Khawand's home from expressing their denunciation of the abduction crime is an infringement of the freedom of expression;

4. Denying journalists access to the gathering point, preventing them from taking photographs, and taking some of them outside the area in a military jeep is an infringement of the freedom of the press, as well as on all other freedoms.

I must note that the officers and the Lebanese Army personnel were carrying out the orders given to them precisely and honestly and in a manner most becoming of the image of the military institution. Hence, we do not blame them. However, we forewarn and caution that the political orders given to the Army might turn it into a political tool to suppress freedoms instead of being a shield that guarantees citizens' freedoms and dignity.

We reiterate that nothing will dissuade us from going on with the battle to preserve the freedom and dignity of all Lebanese. [applause]

Army Responds

NC2309071192 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] The Army Command's Guidance Directorate has issued a statement pointing out that to provide security for party officials and participants at a meeting at Butrus Khawand's house, the Army Command has taken the usual security measures in the area concerned, including preventing anyone carrying weapons from entering the area. These measures, the statement added, are standard procedures adopted on such occasions. Misinterpreting them reflects political interests that have nothing to do with the truth, the statement concluded.

Palestinian 'Participation' in Society Urged

PM2109145792 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Sep 92 p 2

[Muhammad Shuqayr report: "Shams-al-Din: Settlement of the Palestinians Is a Reality; Let Us Recognize Them as a Sect Like the Armenians"]

[Excerpts] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has stated: "Settlement by Palestinians in Lebanon has already taken place and is a reality. Let us recognize them as a sect like the Armenians." [passage omitted]

He was addressing Arab reporters in London at a meeting called the day before yesterday by Lebanese Ambassador to Britain Mahmud Hammud at the embassy. It was also attended by Lebanese Consul Hisham Hamdan.

Shams-al-Din began by saying that "Lebanon's future is good and there is nothing to fear for our country from abroad, although some of our dear ones fear that the new Chamber of Deputies might establish unity with Syria—in which case the Lebanese entity would be threatened. I do not share their fear. Syria wants salvation. I guarantee that it wants nothing from Lebanon." [passage omitted]

On the elections, he said: "I personally was not one of those people who hailed the election law. Like others, I wanted the governorate principle to be applied. We tried but failed to

achieve that. I did not work against the timing of the elections. Had it been left to me, I probably would not have approved the timing, but there is a government and it made that decision. That decision did not suit a group of Lebanese people. That group should, however, have participated in the elections as an opposition instead of calling for a cancellation of the results." [passage omitted]

Shams-al-Din described the opposition as "a qualitative and large minority; but we should not cancel out the Christians who did take part in the elections and say that the opposition alone represents the Christians. I had called for the 'Awn group to participate in the elections. I ask here: Why should there be any postponement, and until when? It used to be said openly that the Syrians were present, that they wanted the elections to be to their liking and they wanted a chamber agreeable to them, and also that they were trying to prevent others from gaining access, so that the elections should be postponed until after 23 September. I tell these people that, if the Syrians stand accused of interference, that interference must be all the more forceful because of their boycott." [passage omitted]

Asked about his position on the issue of giving the government extraordinary powers, he said: "I am in favor of giving powers, but they should be studied calmly in the interest of the country." [passage omitted]

On the violation of al-Ta'if agreement as far as collection of arms was concerned, Shams-al-Din said that all parties, without any exception, still had quantities of arms. Their statements, he said, should not be taken seriously. He added that what is important is that we should deprive the arms of their political significance. Officially, he said, we are persuaded that there are no arms, but we should not believe the parties because they are all liars. What is important to us is that the arms should not be used to hit the accord process. [passage omitted]

Shams-al-Din said that "signing peace agreements with Israel would cause major and serious tremors in the region in the next 10 or 20 years. If the regimes are in a corner and want to sign, so be it. We would not oppose them, but mutual interests [with Israel] is something we will never accept. That is the red line, and we have the means to prevent it from being crossed. The regimes were the ones who have been defeated, yet they are handing out the spoils. The nation was not defeated because it did not fight." [passage omitted]

Shams-al-Din also said: "The issue of settlement [of the Palestinians in Lebanon] should not be raised as a problem. Settlement has taken place and is a reality. The Palestinians came to Lebanon because of the injustice done to them 40 years ago. Generations of them have been born and will die in Lebanon. There is intermarriage between them and the Lebanese. Furthermore, they now do not exceed 300,000."

He added: "Let us recognize them as a new sect, like the Armenians, who now have deputies and ministers. Let us realistically accept their participation in the political life and all aspects of life."

He further said: "I expect emigration abroad to absorb some of the Palestinians in Lebanon, and I expect the rest to merge with Lebanese society. We fought long against settlement, but there is nothing we can do and we must now accept it as a reality, as not a problem at all."

'Clarification' on Settlement Issue

PM2109153192 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Sep 92 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Shams-al-Din Clarifies: We Were the First To Warn Against Settlement"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—We have received the following clarification from Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council in Lebanon:

"To clarify what we said in our statement to Arab reporters about the settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon, we are concerned to stress that the Islamic Shiite Council was the first to warn against the settlement of Palestinians, and it took positions opposed to settlement out of its desire not to absorb the Palestinians into the states to which they have moved temporarily. We also wish to stress that our resistance to settlement serves primarily the protection of the Palestinian people's national rights. For our part, we are completely eager to secure civil rights for them pending the results of the negotiations, which should lead to the establishment of an entity for the Palestinians on their territory... in addition to what is mentioned in the Lebanese Constitution's introduction, which rejects all forms of partition and settlement."

Al-Shar' To Participate in UNGA Session

JN2309053892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in New York last night to participate in the 47th session of the UN General Assembly.

Al-Shar' will meet with several foreign ministers, including the U.S. secretary of state; the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs; the French, Italian, and Austrian foreign ministers; and the Canadian secretary of state for external affairs. He will also meet with other Arab, Islamic, and African foreign ministers.

Al-Shar' will deliver a speech on behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic before the UN General Assembly next Monday [28 September].

Dailies Comment on Sixth Round of Peace Talks

JN2309080992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 23 Sep 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In its editorial, AL-BA'TH discusses the sixth round of peace talks and Israel's claims concerning concessions and pressures, writing: The sixth round of peace talks in Washington will end within two days. As expected by observers who have been following this round over the past four weeks, the talks are still faltering due to Israeli positions that evade substance and concentrate on form. Perhaps what is most conspicuous in these new stands is Israel's concentration on so-called concessions offered to the Arabs.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Israeli side's attempts to depict the concessions it is talking about as if they were in harmony with the bases of the peace process are meant to maneuver and mislead and deceive others. Because the essence of the peace process is based on regaining territory and legitimate rights. The word regaining is very far from, in fact the radical antithesis of, what the Israeli side calls concessions.

AL-BA'TH goes on to write: As for Israeli claims concerning Syrian pressures being practiced on the Israeli side, the matter is very clear and needs no interpretation or reading. This Israeli campaign is simply a naive attempt to evade and escape the requirements of peace, and consequently, derail the peace process and turn it into a propaganda battle that depends on playing with words. The Syrian delegation presented a written document to the Washington talks, affirming commitment to the principles of the peace process. The Syrian document has won the admiration of the world and the appreciation of the cosponsors of the peace conference. The Syrian document did not contain impossible conditions, nor did it contain anything that signifies any kind of pressure, as the Israeli side claims. So how can this side launch a rabid campaign about something that does not exist?

AL-BA'TH concludes: It is clear that Israeli negotiators are creating one pretext after another to avoid discussing the substance of the peace process. These are flimsy pretexts, however, and can never extend the talks indefinitely, no matter how numerous they are.

TISHRIN also comments about the sixth round of the peace talks, affirming that it is impossible for Israel to have both peace and territory.

The sixth round of the Washington talks might not lead to tangible results, not even declaring the principles of a just, comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, the paper says. The Israelis today realize, however, that it is impossible for them to have peace and territory together; that the Arabs, primarily Syria, will never give up their territories or rights; and that there is no alternative to full withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 and 1982 in exchange for the aspired peace.

TISHRIN adds: The international community knows full well today that achieving peace in the Middle East depends on Israel and its response to the principle of full and comprehensive withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon. Israeli withdrawal is not only an Arab demand; it is a demand by the international community as well. All the resolutions of the international community have stipulated Israeli withdrawal and canceling the measures of annexation, Judaization, and settlement activity.

AL-THAWRAH writes that the sixth round of peace talks in Washington, as political observers and the entire world have noted, will not be of any use and, eventually, will not be better than the sterile rounds that preceded it.

After highlighting the Arab position that is summed up by the Syrian document on the way it envisages peace, AL-THAWRAH writes that the Israeli side has not made a single initiative to prove its goodwill, nor presented anything new that goes beyond empty talk and abstract propaganda clamor that is empty, on the ground, on paper, and at the negotiating table, of any content that commits Israel to anything leading to peace.

The paper notes the heavy, feverish Israeli concentration on attempts to penetrate, create gaps, and sow doubts and divisions. All these attempts have been faced with a unified position and a solid wall of solidarity and coordination and unified views; with Syrian and Arab rejection of all proposals to deal with the parties one at a time and to fragment the conflict; and with greater adherence to international legitimacy and its resolutions and to a comprehensive solution on all fronts. The international responsibility, as well as the responsibility of the cosponsors of the conference, and the United States, which is hosting the talks, in particular, now necessitate serious, effective intervention to save the talks and not to allow Israel to proceed in its maneuvers to obstruct and blow up the talks and drive the region again toward the point of no return and toward explosion.

Afghanistan

General Rafi' Arrested Trying To Flee Country

LD2209125892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] General Rafi', former Afghan President Najibollah's vice president, was arrested yesterday while trying to flee the country in disguise.

According to a report dispatched by an Iranian Voice and Vision correspondent from Kabul, he assumed a new name—Shah Aqa—altered his appearance, and was heading for New Delhi. But he was arrested by security forces of Kabul airport.

The bureau head of Kabul's security organization confirmed that General Rafi' was trying to flee. Before Najibollah was toppled, General Rafi' joined Hekmatyar's Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami] and provided support for this party during recent clashes in Kabul.

Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Resolves Differences

LD2209175192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Hazrat-e Ayatollah Fazel, a Leadership Council member, made the following announcement to all Muslims and the heroic nation of Afghanistan, particularly to the noble people of Kabul:

The Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye of Afghanistan resolved all its political differences with the Islamic State, led by esteemed Ostad: henceforth, the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye will formally be part of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

We pray to Almighty God to bestow unity on all Muslims of the world, particularly the Muslims in Afghanistan, so that they can take effective and great steps for enhancing the monotheism, prosperity, and tranquillity of our beloved nation.

The detail of the resolutions concluded between the Hezb-e Wahdat Eslami-ye and the Islamic State will be announced, and our beloved nation will become witness to these resolutions.

Peace be upon His righteous subject.

Government Forms High Consultative Council

LD2209203292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The Presidency's press office reported to BIA that the Afghan Government formed a high consultative council based on a heavenly sacred slogan revealed 14 centuries ago. [passage omitted]

The following are members of this High Consultative Council of the Islamic State, who are not attached to any of the jehadi formations:

1. Esteemed Dr. Sayd Amir Shah Sayar.
2. Esteemed Wali Mohammad Rahimi.
3. Esteemed Aziz Ahmad Panjsheri.
4. Esteemed Gholam Nabi Nahir.
5. Esteemed Pohand Malik.
6. Esteemed Ostad Sayd Masud Badakhshi.
7. Esteemed Abdol Sabur Ghaisi.
8. Esteemed Khalilollah Moqadar.
9. Esteemed Gol Rahman Qazi.
10. Esteemed Abdol Rahim Korokhi.
11. Esteemed Lotfollah Safi.
12. Esteemed Mohammad Akbar [name indistinct]
13. Esteemed Gol Ahmad Yama.
14. Esteemed Dr. Abdol Fatah Najim.
15. Esteemed Mohammad Akbar Salah.
16. Esteemed Abdol Sabur Furozan.
17. Esteemed Abdol Rahman Amir.

Former Intelligence Official Named to New Post

LD2309084192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] According to a report from Kabul by a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent, Omar Ayar, head of the finance department of the Ministry of State Security in Najib's regime and a talented teacher of intelligence, is now a commander of a brigade of the Supervisory Council. The report adds that General Omar Ayar has formed several security posts manned by those who were associated with the Ministry of State Security.

Official Named to Defense Ministry Technical Post

LD2309090292 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 1430 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Quoting a reliable source of the Defense Ministry in Kabul's coalition administration, a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reported that during the past week the coalition government in Kabul appointed Lieutenant General Jaylani to the technical department of the Defense Ministry, replacing Sediq Zahin.

The report says that the aforementioned general is an active and senior Parchami faction member who was appointed to this post after the recent cease-fire agreement. He was previously the head of State Information Services [KHAD] in Baghlan Province.

It has been said that Zahin, the previous deputy defense minister who holds an international passport, may flee abroad in the very near future. He put his apartment up for sale.

The appointment of Lt. Gen. Jaylani shows that the Kabul coalition administration, as before, is ignoring the pledges that it made to Hezb-e Eslami-e during the recent cease-fire.

Minister Says Council To Elect New Leader in Nov

LD2209231992 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 22, IRNA—Afghan Minister in Charge of Foreign Affairs Najibollah Lafraie [name as received]

said here today that in November the Settlement Council of Afghanistan would hold a general meeting with representatives of all Mojahedin and ethnic groups of the country.

He said about 500 representatives from various groups coming from 29 provinces would participate in the meeting to elect a leader of the state and head of the Afghan Government for 18 months. The said council will also have a say in picking cabinet ministers in the future Government of Afghanistan.

After having picked the leader or a leadership council the council will terminate its function and during the said 18 months a draft of the future Constitution of Afghanistan would be prepared, Lafraie told reporters of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) in Kabul.

Speaking on the foreign relations policy of Afghanistan, he said that Afghanistan will try to have friendly relations with all world countries. He said for Afghanistan the priority is to further solidify relations with Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Referring to Afghan refugees abroad the minister said that of the five million Afghans who sought refuge in Iran and Pakistan over the past 13 years of Communist rule, already one million had returned to Afghanistan, and added further steps have been taken to facilitate the return home of the remaining number.

Bangladesh

Strong Protest Lodged With Delhi on Deportations

BK1909162292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] The government has lodged a strong protest with New Delhi over deportation of 132 so-called Bangladeshi immigrants from India. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today that Bangladesh expressed its deep concern on the sudden deportation of the so-called Bangladeshi nationals and further deportation moves. He said the position of Bangladesh on the movement of people across the India-Bangladesh border was clear and unambiguous. Bangladesh has never now or any time in the past encouraged in any manner whatsoever any form of illegal immigration. This continues to remain the consistent policy of the government of Bangladesh.

The spokesman denied that there are illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in India. He however said that over the past four decades there had always been a temporary two-way flow of people across the border due to religious, cultural, and other reasons. The spokesman said it is therefore wrong and absolutely unfair to single out Bangladesh and state that illegal influx of Bangladeshi nationals into India is continuing.

Parliamentary Delegation on Official Visit to PRC

Departs 17 Sep

BK1709162392 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] A seven-member Bangladesh parliament delegation led by Speaker Sheikh Razak Ali left Dhaka for Beijing today on 11-day goodwill visit to China. The members of the delegation include Ansar Ali Siddiqi, Mian Mohammad Mansoor Ali, Dr. Sirajul Haq, Begum Fatima Chowdhury, and (Sudhir Ranjan Chakma).

Frequent Exchange Visits Urged

BK2009163092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Bangladesh and China have agreed on frequent exchanges of visits by parliamentary delegations, especially in the present context of open economy and pluralism as (?aspired) by most nations. The agreement was reached in a discussion between Speaker Sheikh Razak Ali, now leading a parliamentary delegation to China, and Chairman of the National People's Congress of China Wan Li in Beijing today. They also agreed that both the countries could continue to strive for strengthening the existing friendly ties between the two countries. Speaker Sheikh Razak Ali and Wan Li shared the opinion that the aspirations of the people may be met more effectively through vigorous functioning of the parliament.

Hasina Reelected Head of Awami League

BK2109033092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The Awami League Council session, which ended its two- day meeting in Dhaka yesterday, approved a new party declaration and endorsed changes in the party constitution. The party chief Sheikh Hasina was in the chair. Under the amendments to the constitution, the party president will be empowered with more authorities to deal with certain organizational matters. The council will now be held every two years. The central executive committee will comprise 28 members. There will be a 15-member central advisory committee, besides a presidium of 13 members.

The council session also approved a new economic policy, [words indistinct] competitive free market economy and to encourage private investment side by side with the protection of the state sector. Under the party's economic policy, there would be no nationalization.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Hasina has been reelected party president unopposed. Mr. Zillur Rahman has been elected party general secretary. Tofail Ahmed, Abdur Razzak, and Amir Hossian Amu have been included in the 13-member presidium.

First Group of Rohingya Refugees Return to Burma

BK2209165092 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] The first group of 47 Rohingya Muslim refugees returned home today. With this, the process of repatriation of about 265,000 Rohingya Muslims sheltered in Bangladesh has begun. The refugee group comprising 11 families (?sailed off) to the Myanmar Province of Arakan this morning from a transit camp in Bangladesh.

Iran

President Urges Strengthening Combat Readiness

LD2209131992 Tehran IRNA in English 1058 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Tuesday called on the armed forces to strengthen their combat readiness because the enemies were still filled with envy at the Islamic revolution. The president's remarks, addressed to a large gathering at Azadi Square this morning, marked the beginning of a week-long ceremony on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the Iraq-Iran war.

He stated that preserving alertness and readiness, parts of which were witnessed this morning, would be effective in persuading the enemy to refrain from developing any plot or aggression in mind in the future. The president noted that the Iraqi aggression was imposed on Iran (in Sept. 1980) when the country was by no means ready to defend itself and while the army was being reorganized.

Moreover, he added, internal turmoils were on their peak and the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), the Marxists and nationalists were having schemes in their minds to create obstacles on the way of the country's administration. He stressed that the objective the enemies were pursuing by imposing the war on Iran and imposing economic and arms sanctions against the country, was to uproot the Islamic Republic. But, in the first stage the Iranian combatants halted the enemy's aggression and in the second phase not only pulled back the enemy forces but chased them inside their territory, President Rafsanjani added.

"Even at the time when we put down arms, we were much stronger than the beginning of the war as far as military facilities were concerned. This was attained only in the light of maintenance and economizing in deployment of military equipment and through our initiatives," he noted.

President Rafanjani's remarks were followed by a military parade in which various units of the Armed Forces, as well as special units organized by the children of the martyrs, and three forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps took part. Some 35 war planes including Sukhoy, MiG-29, F-14, 5, 4, and 7 performed maneuvers over the square's skies as several helicopters showered the crowd with flowers. Various motorized, anti-chemical warfare units, heavy artillery, anti-aircraft units as well as various types of bombs and missiles were also displayed at the parade.

President on Importance of Experts Returning Home

LD1809221992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Excerpts] In a message to the annual meeting of the Union of the Students Islamic Associations in Europe, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning referred to Iran's pivotal role in realizing the aspirations of all Muslim nations and also in the serious efforts that it makes to develop its economy. He then said that it was imperative that Iranian experts studying at foreign universities return home to expedite the task of reconstructing Iran.

The president's message states in part: Today, Iran is one of the independent and self-reliant regions on earth. Naturally, political currents ruling the world have targeted these independent regions. [passage omitted]

In his message, the president reminded them that it is of utmost importance to understand Islam's position in the existing world conditions and that all Muslim forces must inform others of the calamities Muslims face. Iran is not indifferent to the calamities engulfing the ummah despite its own immense problems of reconstruction. It has devoted a great part of its political resources and diplomatic movements as well as part of its economic resources to helping those oppressed people. [passage omitted]

Ending his message, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran's economic independence depends on greater use being made of the expertise of Iranian Muslim students. And he told them that the country's industries, universities, and scientific institutions are eagerly awaiting their return. [passage omitted]

'Murderous' Clerical Regime's Moves Criticized

NC2009111192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the past one and a half years, a special situation has emerged in Iraqi Kurdistan and the Islamic Republic's intelligence organs have done their best to exploit it for their terrorist and murderous plans. The regime's intelligence organs have often used their mercenaries to destabilize the situation in the various areas, cities, and villages in Iraqi Kurdistan so that they can achieve their specific objectives. Plotting against Iranian opposition organizations that are based on the borders of Iranian and Iraqi Kurdistan and sending terrorists to border areas form part of the clerical regime's efforts toward this end.

On the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran [DPK], the murderous clerical regime, which finds itself helpless in its confrontation with the heroic peshmerga, has done what it can to make up for its defeats by resorting to terrorism. The people of Kordestan and the dear listeners of Voice of

Iranian Kordestan well know about the blowing up of a DPK minibus last fall, which martyred three comrades and wounded several others.

Following this terrorist attack, the clerical regime resorted to its hirelings in Iranian Kordestan and to some of its elements among the Iraqi Kurds and attempted several other explosions on highways used by party vehicles or tried to use other means to assassinate party cadres and peshmerga.

Continuing these criminal acts, on the evening of Monday, 31 August, the regime's intelligence agents—through several Iraqi Kurds, two of whom had infiltrated the ranks of the peshmerga of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]—planted several bombs on the highway used by party vehicles. The next morning—Tuesday, 1 September—peshmerga alertness neutralized the regime's plot and led to the arrest of two terrorists along with the seizure of bombs and incendiary devices and material.

The two terrorists are 'Osman Mahmud 'Osman and Mohammad Amin (Malagolavi) alias Minedom. The two confessed that they intended to blow up a party vehicle and its passengers in return for 30,000 Iraqi dinars.

After questioning the accused, the DPK handed the two over for further questioning and trial to the PUK, because both were residents of Iraqi Kurdistan and had also infiltrated PUK ranks. After trial, the PUK Revolutionary Court sentenced the two to death. The PUK's Political Bureau endorsed the decision, and the sentence was carried out on 11 September.

There are two points worth noting about this incident. The first is the serious and revolutionary attempt by the PUK to punish these people. We hope the PUK and other organizations in Iraqi Kurdistan will continue such decisive approaches to return security and tranquility to Kurdistan and so that those who resort to such abominable acts in the garb of the peshmerga, and by so doing disgrace the peshmerga, will no longer be allowed to do so.

The respectful residents of Raniyah in Iraqi Kurdistan should be lauded. Apparently, when the people in Raniyah found out why these two were executed, they refused to allow them to be buried. Moves like this in the cities of Iraqi Kurdistan, particularly in Raniyah, show that the people in general are fed up with these vile acts and consider those who resort to such acts as aliens with no place among their ranks. [passage omitted]

Most Kurds in Iran and Iraq know that our relations with the PUK are friendly and date back many years. The people of Iranian Kordestan have not forgotten that the PUK peshmerga force once fought next to our party peshmerga against the Islamic Republic's suppressive forces and that they also gave some martyrs. The people of Iranian Kordestan are grateful for these sacrifices. Our party granted the PUK the right to issue the final verdict and carry out the sentence, handing the two over to the PUK court without passing a sentence itself, for the sake of the principles of this friendship. Fortunately, after trying the two and clarifying their crimes, the PUK issued and carried out the death sentence.

The DPK, as a party that feels responsible for every incident that concerns the people of Iranian Kordestan and the party cadres and peshmerga, sincerely welcomes this opportune and responsible PUK act, and the DPK is happy that such revolutionary acts block the path for such machinations and plots or at least limit it.

It may not be unknown that in the past year, the regime's intelligence organs have resorted to various means to make Iraqi Kurdistan a center for terrorist acts. The regime's mercenaries have attempted several terrorist acts and many of their terrorist plans, one of which was the above, have been neutralized.

We know that the terrorist-nurturing clerical regime will try to continue such criminal acts and will try to implement its terrorist plans. It is everyone's duty, primarily that of the parliament, the Kurdistan front, and the political forces in Iraqi Kurdistan, to heed security issues and strive to prevent terrorism in Iraqi Kurdistan.

As for those mercenaries who are living in Iranian Kordestan and who accept missions assigned to them by the regime's intelligence organs and so choose betrayal and disgrace, our party has decided to punish them very severely and confront them persistently. This party policy found fewer people accepting the clerical regime's terrorist assignments. We see how the regime's intelligence is trying to find traitors and mercenaries among the people of Iraqi Kurdistan. By adopting this policy, the regime is pursuing various objectives, which will be discussed later.

Such acts by the clerical regime do not benefit the people and are not in their interests—in any one of the Kurdistans. The Islamic Republic's regime is blatantly and flagrantly denying the national identity of the Kurdish people and in the religious field it is denying every right to the religion professed by most people in Kordestan. No one should be fooled by the clerical regime's occasional crocodile tears shed for the people of Iraqi Kurdistan to achieve abominable objectives. A large part of the masses in Iraqi Kurdistan know of the plots hatched by the Islamic Republic and sincerely curse those who execute the regime's terrorist plans.

The revolutionary stance of the respectable people in Raniyah, who refused to participate in the funeral and prevented the bodies of the two terrorists being buried, proves this best. [passage omitted]

The DPK again thanks the PUK of Iraqi Kurdistan, which showed, with its revolutionary act, that it wants to confront any plot hatched against the people of Iraqi Kurdistan or against Iran's political forces. The DPK also thanks the respectable people of Raniyah for having expressed, as always, their sincere feelings toward the common fate of the Kurdish people in both Kurdistans and for announcing their readiness to take any step that is necessary.

We hope this revolutionary and responsible process will continue so that a healthy atmosphere void of sedition and plotting will emerge in Iraqi Kurdistan. Let us hope so.

Further on Reaction to Abu Musa Island Dispute

Message Sent to Australian Deputy

LD1909160192 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Australia Hasan Ghadiri-Abianeh Friday conveyed a message of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the recent row over the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf to Australian officials.

Ghadiri-Abianeh, who conveyed the message at a meeting with Australia's deputy foreign minister, said that the ongoing ballyhoo on the islands would not be in the interest of the United Arab Emirates under the present conditions.

Iran, he said, believes that the atmosphere of friendship and understanding would be in the interest of all the regional countries and that false historical claims would not bear any fruit for those who raise such claims.

He added that the Iranian people and government would not let any country interfere in their internal affairs.

Australia's first deputy foreign minister thanked the Iranian ambassador for the message and said all the people should try to resolve international crises through peaceful negotiations.

Island Dispute 'Gift' to Bush

NC1909074492 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 13 Sep 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Flies Around the Cake"]

[Text] The continued world public's attention on the events in Bosnia-Hercegovina, "in the heart of Europe", is not in the interest of the United States or its European allies. Since the absence of a solution on the crisis in the long run can make them look either incompetent or apathetic, either one of which can be damaging.

How long is the consideration of the Bosnia-Hercegovina issue by the United States and its Western allies going to last, the international public might ask. That is why Washington has been intent on moving the focus of attention, by both the world's people and media, away from Bosnia-Hercegovina to another crisis point.

Of all the crisis points in the world, the one that the United States would prefer is in the Persian Gulf. The shift of attention to the Persian Gulf, it is hoped, will do several things all at once: remove the spotlight from the Serbs to do more of what they are doing now, legitimize the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, and allow the transfer of more military hardware to the area.

But there are no longer any crises in the Persian Gulf to attract the international public's attention for long. The Iraq-Iran war is over, and the world's lifelines of oil transfer and navigational routes are open. Kuwait is liberated, its occupier ejected, and the Kuwaitis are busy rebuilding their country. Then what crisis is there to warrant renewed public attention on the Persian Gulf?

The United States tried to create that crisis by contriving one: the aerial exclusion axis, or "no-fly zone" to protect the "innocent" Shiite community in southern Iraq. Under the pretext of facing the renewed threat poised by Baghdad against Shiites, Washington tried to further consolidate its grip over the area by conducting war games, bringing in new forces, and campaigning for the sale of additional arms to the Shaykhs.

But the international public was not sold on this counterfeit crisis. Because for all intensive purposes, and in view of the beating Iraq armed forces took as a result of the Kuwaiti war, it is now a toothless tiger. Therefore, the scheme failed and the attention remained where it should on Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Washington does not like crisis just to give the Serbs free hands to do what they like. In a presidential election year with the Armenian public obssessively fixed on a faltering economy, the administration would want a crisis that could draw attention away from the domestic issues to overseas ones.

Therefore, when the ministers of the (P) GCC [(Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council] condemned Iran over the island of Abu Musa, and out of frustration questioned Iran's ownership of the two Persian Gulf islands of Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek, it was like a God-given gift for the Bush administration. It jumped in and immediately voiced support for the UAE over the disputed island.

However, before the avowed U.S. support make anyone cheeky, the sheikhs must sit down and consider carefully if they need or want another round of tension and crisis in the area; one that would draw flies around the cake.

West's Military Presence Viewed

LD1909164292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1030 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Under the conditions when the propaganda being waged by the Western mass media is attempting to fan up the issue of the three islands—namely, Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek—the Iranian president explicitly declared in his Friday prayer sermons yesterday: Our policy on the issue of Abu Musa is not one of confrontation, mischief-mongering and making enemies. [passage omitted]

Considering the special conditions governing international and regional scenes at the present juncture, regrettably there exists certain covert and overt elements which are intending to create tension in the region. Without doubt, the presence of Western military powers in the region should be plausible

for the public opinion in those countries which are bearing the heavy cost of such a presence in the region, while at the same time, presence of alien forces should also be discerned by the regional states. Therefore, the Western media—by creating propaganda, clamor and furor—are appearing on the scene. In this way, they are pursuing a number of objectives in a manner that accelerates the slow pace of the Middle East peace talks and also justification of the U.S. troops' presence in the region and a (?feeble) attempt to preserve stability and security may be among these desires.

At any rate, as the Iranian officials have constantly declared, this Islamic country desires peaceful coexistence with the neighboring states based on friendship and mutual respect. As declared by Hashemi-Rafsanjani: We cordially reach out to shake hands and seek cooperation in the region. But muting such issues is not in the interest of anyone, and if it benefits anyone, it will be the world devourers.

IAEO Head Criticizes 'Zionist' Propaganda

NC2309104492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] The vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IAEO] spoke at the 36th general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in Vienna yesterday. Stressing that our country's nuclear programs are peaceful, he called for international forums to help it implement these programs.

Amrollahi referred to an Iranian proposal on freeing the Middle East of nuclear arms and strongly condemned the West for directly or indirectly supporting the Zionist regime's nuclear programs.

Referring to false propaganda by the Zionist regime on Iranian nuclear programs, the IAEO head said the objective behind this propaganda is to justify nonpeaceful use of nuclear energy by the Zionist regime.

Stressing that the Islamic Republic of Iran insists on completing the Bushehr power plant, the IAEO head criticized the German Government for refusing to issue the necessary export licenses to complete the plant.

He also stated that Iran has signed agreements with China and Russia to buy nuclear power plants for peaceful use of nuclear energy.

IRNA reports from Vienna that on the first day of the conference, three new countries—Croatia, Slovenia, and Uzbekistan—became members of the IAEA.

PLO Envoy's Remark on Arab Forces Refuted

LD2109122992 Tehran IRNA in English 1153 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA—An informed source at the Foreign Ministry Monday categorically denied recent statements by a PLO representative claiming that there were 9,000 combatants from various Arab states in Iran and that they would probably be deployed for intervention in the internal affairs of Arab countries.

Kamal Sayyid, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), made the allegation in the course of a meeting of the Arab League's information ministers in Cairo Saturday.

"Under the present crucial juncture when the region is in need of stability and tranquility, spreading such baseless and unfounded rumours and accusations, would only be to the benefit of those who seek creation of tension and instability in the region," the source told IRNA.

New Foreign Exchange System Planned for 1993

LD1909165492 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Esfahan, Sept. 19, IRNA—Head of Plan and Budget Organization Masud Rughani Zanjani said here today that a new foreign exchange system would be introduced from the beginning of the next calendar year (starting March 21, 1993). He said that the government is working to rectify the wrong financial policies adopted over the past 50 years.

At present, three types of exchange rates are in effect in Iran, the variety in exchange rates of the leading currencies has posed certain problems to the long-term economic well-being of many Iranian industries, added the official.

Over the past few years Iranian officials have repeatedly stressed the need for the adoption of a unified exchange rate, but this is the first time a target date is declared for enacting the proposition.

The plan and budget minister pointed out that the next year's budget would be designed on the basis of a uni-parity rate of the dollar, which he, however, did not specify.

Syria Said Heading Toward 'Second Camp David'

LD2209112692 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—A morning daily Tuesday regretted that Syria was reportedly going to tread the same compromising path that has been taken by Egypt in the Arab-Israeli conflict. 'ABRAR' in its editorial this morning wrote that the Middle East peace talks, which started in Madrid a year ago, were going to enter a new phase in Washington.

In an all-out effort, Washington was attempting to provide preliminaries for the next month's meeting of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, said the paper. "However", the article noted, "it is said that Egypt is playing the key role in the meeting since, in addition to having friendly ties with Israel, it was the first so-called frontline country whose president 'Anwar al-Sadat' embraced Israeli heads of state and thereby removed the indecency of compromise with the assassins of the Palestinians and usurpers of the holy Qods."

Since Damascus has already expressed its eagerness by sitting with Israel at the negotiation table, therefore it could be said that the "second Camp David is about to emerge," the article added. It stressed that although two decades have passed since the first Camp David, the trend of developments showed that international Zionism had taken maximum advantage of the time factor for establishing itself.

"If Damascus joins the rank of compromisers for gradual or stage- by-stage restoration of the Golan Heights, in this connection only the Palestinians, after a 40-year long struggle...and sustaining thousands of casualties, would be the main loser in the history of Palestine," said the paper. It noted that what Israel had prescribed for the Palestinians in the peace talks was limited autonomy or, in other words, living as a Muslim minority under the domination and humiliation of the Zionists. The article underlined further strengthening of the 'intifada' as the only solution to the Palestinian cause and reiterated that "to place any hope in Arab countries is a futile attempt."

Editorial Views Forced Turkish Aircraft Landings

NC2109113592 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 8 Sep 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Turkey—the Region's Political Ostrich"]

[Text] When Turkey fell into the West's vat to be painted with a Western color, its political and national identity were destroyed in the process. And if we glance at the situation in Turkey—from east to west—we can see that apart from Istanbul, which has turned into a rendezvous spot for pleasure-seeking Arabs and a place for drunken brawls by American soldiers, more than half of the country is in the hands of U.S. forces and their Turkish puppets. Ankara has turned into a small and despicable example of Washington, and the statesmen in the Turkish capital have turned into the yes-men of the U.S. military advisers.

In view of this situation, Turkish statesmen should not be expected to be independent people who think of their country's national and popular interests.

Since the time of the aggression by the United States and its Persian Gulf allies, Turkey has always been the implementer of Western policies. And recently, with the implementation of the U.S. plan for the establishment of the no-fly zone in southern Iraq, Turkey is trying—by laying the groundwork for the plot of establishing a 150,000-strong force on its borders with Syria, Iraq, and Iran on the pretext of confronting the Kurds—to foment tension on its borders with its neighbors in a bid to distract attention and thus help the United States implement its plans for Iraq's dismemberment.

News reports state that Iranian jet fighters forced two Turkish aircraft that had violated our country's airspace to land at bases in Western Iran.

The violation by the Turkish aircraft came after authorization by the Turkish National Security Council for Extraterritorial Operations, without Turkish statesmen assessing the consequences of this decision.

Last week the Turkish press also reported on an aggression by Turkish forces against Iranian territory on the pretext that rebel Kurds had fled to the Iranian borders. In view of the behavior by Ankara, which is receiving its orders from Washington, forcing the two Turkish aircraft to land was the most favorable response by Iran, which could have also acted in another way—in other words, by opening fire at the violating aircraft.

Thus, the upcoming visit by the Turkish interior minister to Iran will also be connected with the landing of the aggressive Turkish planes; therefore, our country's officials should make the Turkish interior minister understand that forcing the aggressive Turkish planes to land was a well-intentioned act vis-a-vis Turkey's repeated ill-intentioned behavior and that this incident could have developed in quite a different way.

Turkey should behave wisely within the context of neighborly relations and should stop playing the role of a political ostrich.

Objectives of Visit by Turkey's Sezgin Questioned

NC1909082292 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (International Weekly) in English 10 Sep 92 p 2

[Editorial: "The Existing Tension is Undeniable, But..."]

[Text] After some alterations in the scheduling of Ismet Sezgin's trip to Iran, and according to final arrangements, the Turkish Interior Minister is due to arrive in Tehran tomorrow at the head of a high-ranking delegation.

Ismet Sezgin is travelling to Iran under conditions of strained relations between Iran and Turkey which date back to several months ago.

It is true of course that certain influential groups in Turkey have been trying to disrupt the normal relations between Iran and Turkey in the past 12 years. But it has to be admitted that the level of diplomatic relations between the two nations had never sunk so low, and it has to be confessed that relations between the two neighbors have really reached a critical stage.

It, therefore, remains to be seen what objectives the Turkish leaders are pursuing by the despatch of their interior minister to Tehran.

The truth of the matter is that the ties between the two nations are beset by a number of problems and difficulties which have to be discussed in an open and frank atmosphere if the present tension is to be brought to an end.

The Turks claim Iran is giving support to the Kurdish rebels in Turkey, while Iran believes the Turkish security forces are giving assistance to the outlawed MKO [Mohajedin-e Khalq Organization] group and the monarchists. At the same time a freighter ship carrying Iranian goods is being illegally detained, and Turkish authorities are conducting cultural propaganda, aiming to instigate certain Iranian ethnic groups.

The important question now is whether Ismet Sezgin is coming to Iran with full authority to settle these nagging questions and reach definite conclusions on these important issues or not. If the trip has been envisaged as an opportunity for serious discussions of the differences, then Tehran is prepared to forget the past hard feelings. On the other hand if it is being staged as a propaganda maneuver to divert attention from Turkey's internal affairs, then the trip will have no result other than increasing the tension. It should be mentioned here that on the issue of the Kurds, Turkey first accused Syria and finally managed to subdue it with a series of intimidating gestures including the threat of monopolizing the use of river waters. Turkey then applied more or less the same technique to the sickly regime of Iraq, with this difference that here the initial threats were later coupled with military intervention in the Iraqi territory, proving suitable propaganda atmosphere for the Turkish press. But Turkey should beware of comparing Iran with either Syria or Iraq.

Unfortunately it has to be stated that Turkey does not have good records of neighborly relations, and presently its relations with most of its neighbors—Greece, Syria, Iraq, Armenia, Bulgaria—are in critical states.

Under these circumstances, it is not clear why the Turkish political leaders persist in adding to the above list a friend of several decades likes Iran.

The greatest concern for the Iranian authorities in connection with Ismet Sezgin's trip is that he might be representing only one of the three strong factions in the Turkish government, with the result that any settlement that may be reached with him in Tehran could be sabotaged by the other two factions.

Turkey's 'Extraterritorial' Operations Viewed

NC2009110292 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 2 Sep 92 pp 12, 2

[M. Mollazadeh commentary: "Turkey and Extraterritorial Operations"]

[Excerpts] Turkey is facing a blatantly contradictory situation concerning the Kurdish issue. Suleyman Demirel's rightist, nationalistic government is carrying out intense military action to resolve its ethnic crisis, while trying to act within the framework of the U.S. plan to create and strengthen security zones in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Workers' Party of Kurdistan, PKK, is capitalizing on this overt contradiction in Turkish policies and, by intensifying its operations against the Turkish forces, placed Demirel's government at an impasse.

The extraordinary cabinet session at Diyarbakir in Turkish Kurdistan [as published] to assess the situation in the Kurd-inhabited areas of Turkey, followed by the announcement of the failure of Turkey's extraterritorial operations against what is called the PKK, confirms Ankara's perplexity over the Kurdish issue.

Instead of realizing the sensitive nature of regional circumstances, stemming from European and U.S. interventionist policies on the affairs of Arab countries, particularly Baghdad, the Turkish National Security Council has fallen into a dilemma from which it is difficult to extricate itself.

It would be wrong for Turkey to be complacent about its military bases being the stamping ground for American, British, and French warplanes so that they might create a Kurd-inhabited zone in northern Iraq and to consider the Turkish Kurds as mountain people and deny them their national identity.

Turkey has helped the West, which has pursued its special policies that have no connection with Turkey's security or national interests, and now Turkey is bearing the brunt of the fallout from these policies. It cannot extricate itself from the crisis.

Fanning the nationalistic sentiments of Kurds in Turkey and Iraq can do nothing else, but escalate the military operations against Turkey, which for decades has pursued a policy of violently repressing the Kurds.

The same contradiction that the United States and Europe have encountered on the Kurdish issue has also affected Turkey; the only difference is that Turkey must probably pay a higher price.

The victims of the extraterritorial operations to suppress the Kurds in northern Iraq will be civilian Kurds rather than the PKK. [passage omitted]

The Kurdish issue should be settled amicably in Turkey and Iraq within the framework of national interests. Experience has shown that this issue cannot be settled by military means or by extraterritorial operations. Turkey has repeatedly capitalized on the opportunity and attacked northern Iraq.

What has been the net result? Nothing except more contradictions, endangering the lives and property of the Iraqi Kurds, who are ostensibly being protected by Bush's Poised Hammer and the erosion of the Turkish Government's credibility for aggression against its weak neighbor's territory. There is no reason to believe that the consequences of such operations will be any different. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi situation is an exception in the region and will not remain the same. Eventually the people of Iraq will liberate themselves from the circumstances imposed on them and give top priority to safeguarding their frontiers with Turkey, never letting the Turkish forces ignore the internationally recognized borders on a whim.

Turkey's policy is dualistic and unjustifiable. The same issue cannot be tackled in two different ways. If Turkey supports the Iraqi Kurds, it cannot suppress its own Kurds militarily. So, when Turkey becomes an accomplice in the conspiratorial American collusion, it must see the consequences in proliferating unrest at home, which is what is happening, and Turkey is stuck in an insurmountable impasse.

Extraterritorial operations will only accentuate these contradictions and the time will come when the Turkish nation will demand an answer from the government. [passage omitted]

The recent Turkish National Security Council and Government decisions authorizing the entry of the Turkish forces into other countries to suppress guerrillas affiliated with the PKK cannot be considered a national decision. Quite possibly, the United States and its European allies have tailored this plan and the Turks are mere instruments to obtain its objectives.

The region's countries should follow these developments. As for the PKK, which is said to operate only inside Turkey and to enjoy extensive support from the Turkish Kurds, Turkey's extraterritorial operations will be meaningless. Turkey's allegations that it plans to liquidate the PKK are only for domestic consumption and are geared to deceiving the Turkish people. These allegations may be slightly effective at home, but others will not be convinced.

Turkey has deployed many of its armed forces on its borders with Iraq and they could enter Iraq on a large scale. Will the United States include Turkey in its schemes to settle scores with Saddam? What will Turkey gain in a regional war with a nebulous future? By pressuring Saddam Husayn, Bush is seeking to gain an edge in the presidential poll. What is Demirel seeking? Is there someone in Ankara who can give a convincing reply to these questions? Apparently there is not much hope of finding such a person.

Russia Urged To Avoid Intervention in Tajikistan

NC1909073592 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Sep 92 p 2

[Editorial: "No Interfering in Tajikistan's Internal Affairs"]

[Text] Political changes have not yet come to an end in Tajikistan.

Following Rakhman Nabiyev's resignation, Akbarsho, Iskandarov, Parliament speaker, has been appointed as president, and although the incoming dispatches from Dushanbe indicate that relative calm has been restored, new encounters are not improbable in view of the basically volatile conditions prevailing in the country.

Tajikistan, one of the poorest and most backward republics of the former Soviet Union, has been the scene of perpetual unrest since last spring when political parties and groups became gradually more vocal in their opposition to President Nabiyev, the aging communist hardliner. The question now is whether political conflicts will come to an end now that Nabiyev has been ousted from the political scene of the country, and apparently few political observers share this optimistic view.

Unfortunately, it seems that the 70-year domination of communism in the republics has not only resulted in the economic backwardness, but has also acted as an obstacle to the political growth and maturity of their nations. Consequently, after the disintegration of the Soviet Union the republics that have recently been liberated from the communist rule, are facing serious difficulties in creating democratic systems for shaping their destinies.

But the citizens of these newly-found republics, especially Tajiks, should realize that they have no choice but to adopt a peaceful domocratic procedure, and that war and violent encounters will have no result other than exhausting the remainder of their scant economic resources.

Meanwhile, for reasons of religious, cultural and ethnic affinities, Tehran is following the political developments in Tajikistan with particular sensitivity and interest. Tehran is seriously concerned about the possibility of intervention by Russia or the other republics of the former Soviet Union in the internal affairs of Tajikistan, as any kind of insecurity and lack of stability in Tajikistan will eventually spill out into other republics which neighbor the Iranian territories, and such a situation will obviously be at odds with our national security.

The Russian military forces should seriously avoid any kind of intervention in the political affairs of Tajikistan to allow the Tajik nation to make decisions about the destiny of their country under peaceful circumstances and without the presence of military pressures.

Besides, Russia's military intervention in Tajikistan will seriously damage the reputation the Russian republic has developed in the world public opinion as a peaceloving nation in the past two years.

Pakistan

Official Urges 'Self-Determination' for Kashmiris

BK2309042092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Pakistan has proposed a five-point action plan for global peace and security and stressed the need for a just solution to the Kashmir dispute so as to implement the right to self-determination. The call was made by Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs, while addressing the UN General Assembly in New York. Explaining the elements of the plan, he said that a strategy for global peace should be formulated to ensure the security of both big and small nations. The action plan should also ensure the complete application of the principle of self-determination on the basis of justice and equality, the establishment of a viable structure for regional peace and security, revival of global economic growth, and the establishment of international economic relations. The plan should also incorporate the strengthening of the role and the effectiveness of the United Nations.

The minister of state for foreign affairs urged the international community to exert pressure on India so that it desists from suppressing the Kashmiri people and allows them the right to self-determination. Mr. Kanjoo informed the world community that since 1990, more than 10,000 Kashmiri men, women, and children have been brutally killed by the 400,000-strong Indian forces. He said Pakistan cannot

remain indifferent to their difficulties and sufferings. It will continue to extend full moral, diplomatic, and political support to the struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination. The minister of state urged Secretary General Butrus Ghali to use his office to persuade India to desist from violence and the suppression of the Kashmiri people.

Brunei Sultan Hassanal Arrives on 4-Day Visit

BK1809151292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Sultan of Brunei, Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, was accorded a warm welcome when he flew in to Islamabad this evening on a four-day official visit to Pakistan. Twenty-one guns boomed as he alighted from his personal aircraft. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, greeted him at the airport. The chairman, joint chiefs of staff committee; the chief of the army staff, the chief of the naval staff, and a representative of the air chief were also present. The Sultan was then conducted to the dais where he took salute from a contingent of the three services. National anthems of Brunei and Pakistan were played. Accompanied by the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah inspected the guard of honor. Among others who came to greet the Sultan of Brunei included chairman of the Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad; Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan; federal ministers, and members of the diplomatic corps. Talks between Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, will be held tomorrow. The president is hosting a banquet in honor of the distinguished guest tonight.

Meets President, Prime Minister

BK1909112692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that real peace and prosperity will be achieved only when the countries of the world adhere to the principles of the UN Charter, resolve their disputes peacefully, and promote international cooperation. Addressing a banquet in honor of Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the ruler of Brunei Darussalam, in Islamabad last night, he said that Pakistan is firmly committed to its resolve to work for peace and stability in the region.

The president said that Pakistan has started negotiations with India to remove tension and we sincerely desire to hold purposeful talks with India on the issues of Jammu and Kashmir and nuclear nonproliferation. Referring to Afghanistan, the president expressed the hope that Afghans will themselves settle their issues.

The president expressed concern over the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and said that Pakistan condemns the atrocities being carried out on the people of that country. He asked the world community to accept Bosnia's request for the provision of security by the United Nations so as to restore Bosnian government control in all parts of the republic.

On bilateral ties, the president said that Pakistan wants to further strengthen these relations with Brunei Darussalam. He said that Pakistan is ready to share its technical expertise, trade, manpower, and experience with the brotherly people of Brunei Darussalam.

Reciprocating similar views, the ruler of Brunei Darussalam said that the two countries hold identical views on various issues and they closely cooperate at the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligned Movement. He said that the two countries are playing a significant role in the development of the region by strengthening their bilateral relations. The ruler of Brunei expressed regret over the losses due to floods in Pakistan. He expressed heartfelt sympathy with the affected people on behalf of his government and the people.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan conferred the highest Pakistani civil award on the Brunei ruler. He has been given the award in recognition of his services for the promotion of cooperation between Brunei and Pakistan. The special award-giving ceremony was held at the presidential palace in Islamabad yesterday evening.

Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif called on the president of Brunei at the presidential palace yesterday evening. They exchanged view on ways to enhance the economic and trade ties between the two countries. The ruler of Brunei expressed sorrow and sympathy over the flood damages in Pakistan.

Cooperation Discussed With Minister

BK2009090992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] Pakistan and Brunei will cooperate in areas of mutual interest, especially in the fields of industry, culture, and the provision of technical and quasi-technical manpower. This was stated at a meeting in Islamabad yesterday between Haji Bahrin bin Abbas, Brunei's minister for law and transport, and Syed Fakhr Imam, the federal minister for education. Syed Fakhr Imam referred to the areas of cooperation between the two countries, especially in the fields of education, agriculture, and the provision of manpower to Brunei. He also explained the opportunities for foreign investment in Pakistan in the light of the privatization process launched by the government and the facilities provided for investment. The federal minister also said that Pakistan can assist Brunei in the enforcement of an Islamic system and the training of its students.

Departs After Visit

BK2109064192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Sultan of Brunei Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and Queen Hajjah Mariam were given a warm send-off when they left Islamabad this morning for home after a four-day visit to Pakistan. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif saw the distinguished guests off.